



# Interpreting Lessons from the Feminist Fight Club for the Academic Sphere

# What is the Feminist Fight Club (FFC)?

1. A book by Jessica Bennett
2. A student org on campus (the first one!)
3. A movement



# What is feminism?

*Feminism* = a range of political movements, ideologies, and social movements that share a common goal: to define, establish, and achieve political, economic, personal, and social equality of sexes (Wikipedia)

*Feminism* = the advocacy of women's rights on the ground of the equality of the sexes (Oxford)

*Feminist* = a **person** who believes in the social, political, and economic equality of the sexes (Ngozi Adichie TED talk/Beyonce song)

# Caveats of the book

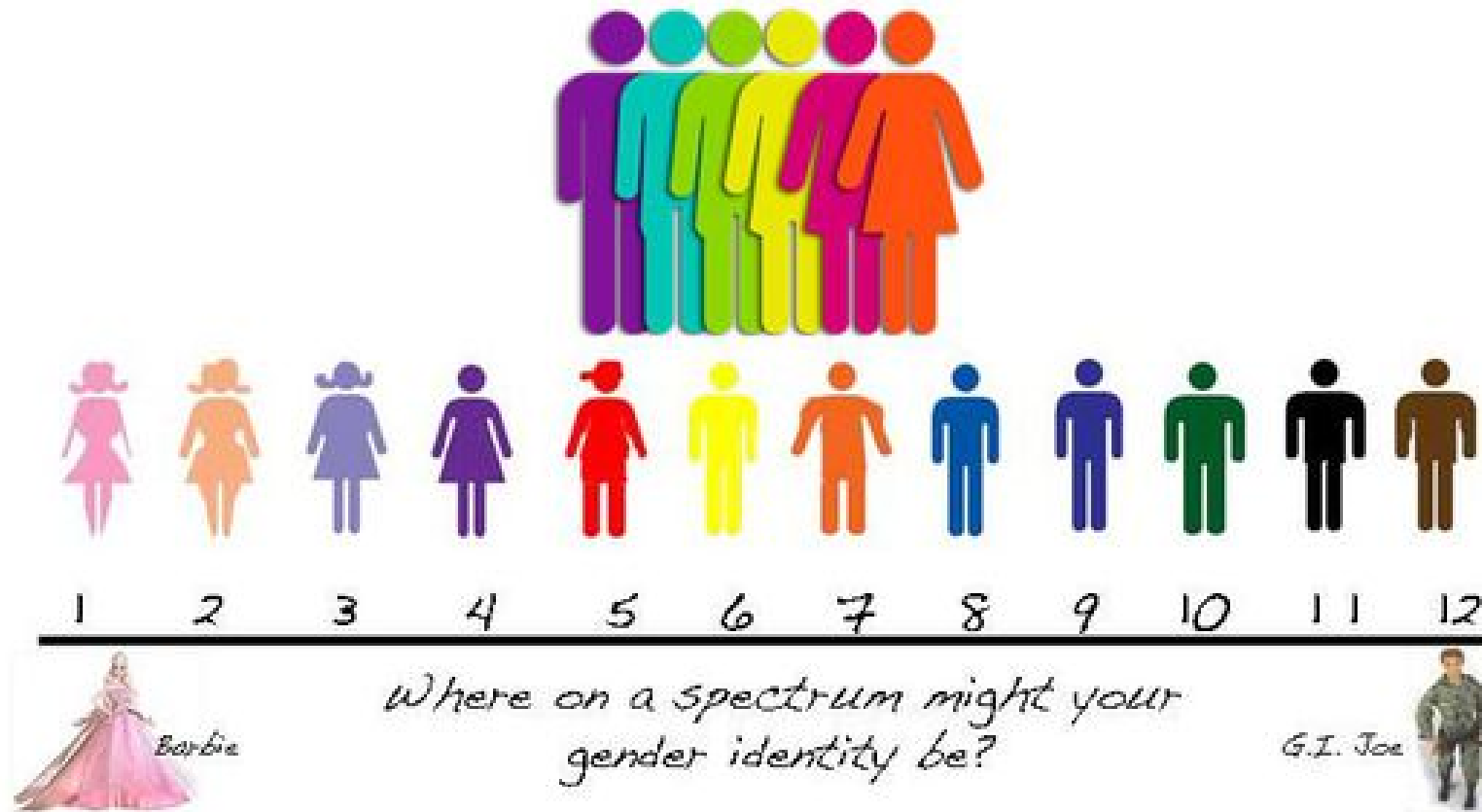
1. Does not address **intersectionality** well
2. Addresses gender from a **binary perspective**

# Intersectionality

*(n.) a theory that considers that various human aspects, such as race, sexual orientation and gender, **do not exist isolated** and separated from each other, **but have complex, influential and interwoven relationships, and those relationships are essential to understanding of the human condition** (Wikipedia)*

- Ethnicity/Culture
- Family/Parental Status
- Immigration Status
- Gender Expression
- Sex Assigned at Birth
- Language of Proficiency
- Use of English
- Religion/Spirituality/Faith Tradition
- Socio-Economic Class
- Ability/Disability
- Access to Resources
- Sexual Orientation
- Gender Identity
- Geographic Region Veteran Status
- Size/Appearance/Athleticism
- Position/Hierarchical Level
- Race
- Skin Color
- Education
- Age
- Nationality
- Relationship/Marital Status

# The Gender Spectrum



# Book Structure

1. Know the Enemy

2. Know Thyself

3. Booby Traps

4. Get Your Speak on

5. F you, Pay me

6. WWJD –What  
Would Josh Do?

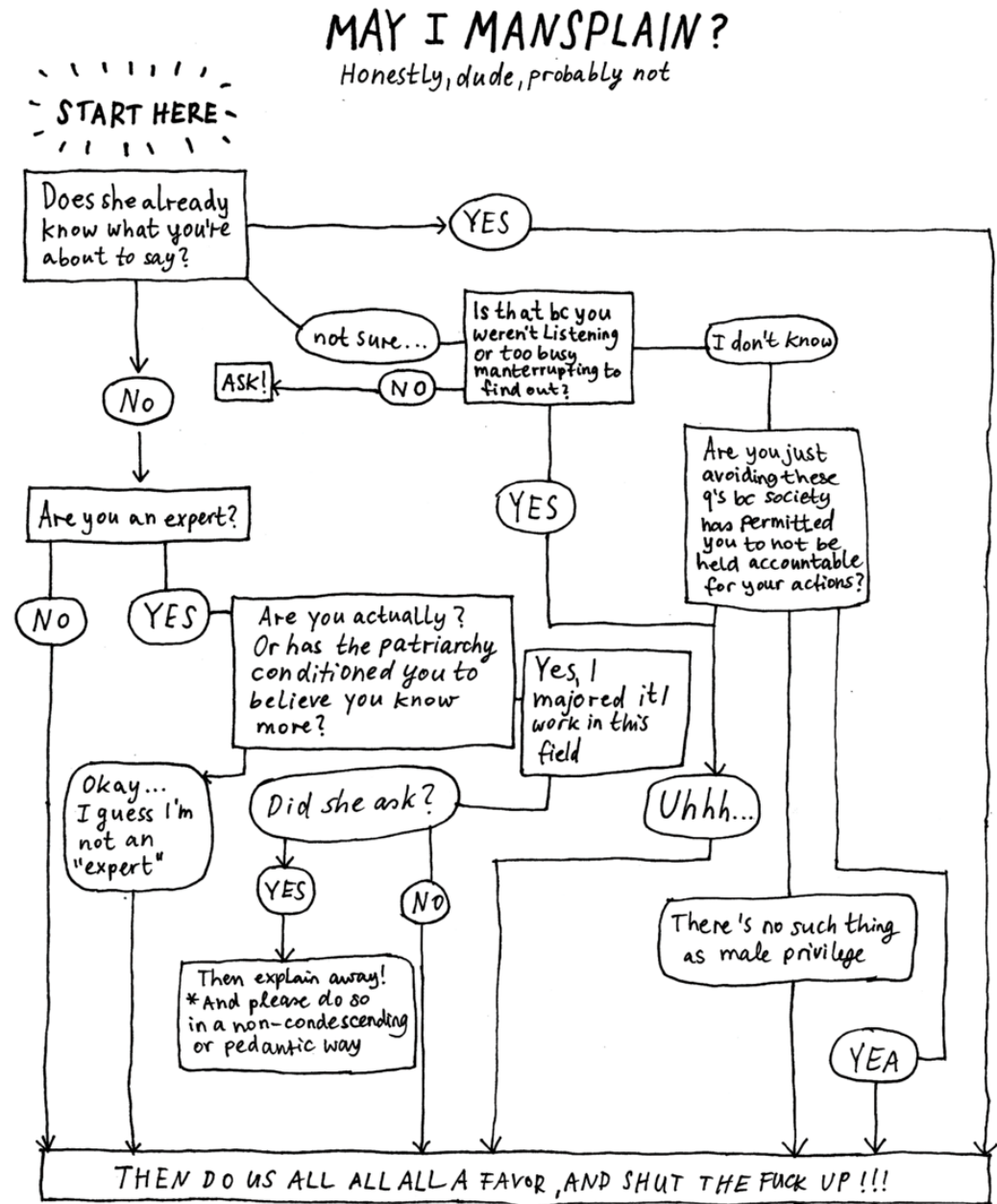
# Know the Enemy

## The Enemy: The Mansplainer

"The Mansplainer is smarter than you; ergo, let him just break it down for you real quick. His delivery is typically patronizing or condescending, often inaccurate, and completely lacks nuance – but comes at you, without variation, as gospel."

## The Fight Moves:

Provides funny table (see left) but doesn't give explicit moves, ideas?





# Know Thyself

## The Saboteur: The Humble Bragger

“She’s #blessed to have been granted a full scholarship, “grateful” (and “surprised!”) to have been promoted, and feels #lucky – not *proud* – to have won a prestigious award.”

## The Fight Moves:

- Bag the humblebrag
- Don't deprecate
- Just the Facts
- Find a Boast Bitch



How can we use these in academic settings?

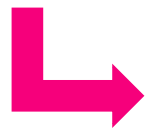
# Booby Traps

**The Trap:** “You don’t look like an engineer (or scientist)”

“Wenger... was asked to appear in a recruiting ad for her company. Commuters thought Wenger was too pretty to be a “real” engineer.”

**The Hack:** Twirl on Them Haters

“Wenger started a hashtag, #ILookLikeAnEngineer.”



[#thisiswhatscientistlookslike](#)  
[#distractinglysexy](#)



# Get Your Speak On

## Verbal Tripwire: Hedging

"Think of these words as a kind of performative maybes... They are permission words: used to lessen the impact of an utterance or qualify a statement to make you sound equivocal... Perhaps this is why we use qualifiers to begin with: to sound less assertive, softer, less pushy, less demanding."

### Verbal Tripwire: **HEDGING**

**HEDGE WORDS** (don't be a hog!)

QUALIFIERS	FILLERS	TAGS	WARM-UP WORDS
- I'm not sure if this is right, but ...	- um - like - kind of - Apparently	- Does that make sense?	- Just - Actually

# WWJD – What would Josh do?

*Carry yourself with the confidence of a mediocre white man*

## WWJD? Don't Hope, Ask

"In her book *Women Don't Ask*, Linda Babcock describes two types of people: turnips, those who see little merit in asking for what they want (who perceive their environment as unchangeable) and oysters, who see situations as adaptable and look for ways to improve them (they see the world as their oyster)."

## Femulate Him:

- ✓ Be an Oyster
- ✓ Have a Counterplan for No

# Overarching themes of the book

1. Women emulating “male” qualities
  1. Why are these associated with men?
2. Men (and sometimes women) depicted as bad guys
  1. Does this bring the feminist movement forward?
  2. How do we help men be allies?

**NO ONE BENEFITS FROM BIAS**

What Would Gloria Do ???  
Pussy posse  
FEMINIST FIGHT CLUB  
NO MORE NICE GIRLS  
RIOT ZERO Whiskyyyy  
BURN YOUR BRA  
GRRRL FUCKS GIRL  
MY SPINE IN 5 SECONDS AS A SLINGSHOT  
RULES OF THE FIGHT CLUB LOCAL SH THE MARCHY  
LE FUCK YEAH FFC  
#ALLWOMANEVERYTHING  
WOMEN'S LIB GIRLS RULE  
READY BRO-FREE FOR COMBAT WORKPLACE  
This book is 21 - GODDESS -

Commit to using one of these tools to help yourself or others!

# Rules of the FFC at CSU

1. You must talk about the Feminist Fight Club at CSU.
2. You MUST talk about the Feminist Fight Club at CSU.
3. We fight PATRIARCHY (and all forms of harassment, bullying, inequity, discrimination, -isms, and -phobias), not each other.
4. Membership to the FFC means you've taken an oath to help and support women –ALL women – and those from historically marginalized groups.
5. The FFC is inclusive and non-hierarchical. Everyone's an equal fighter.
6. The fight is not over until we have achieved gender equity for all people.
7. No wallflowers. Everyone must fight!

# Resources

- Feminism:
  - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/03/16/feminism-glossary-lexicon-language/99120600/>
  - <https://www.thenation.com/article/can-feminism-be-too-inclusive/>
- Intersectionality:
  - <https://www.care2.com/causes/what-is-intersectionality-and-why-is-it-important.html>
  - [https://hbr.org/2018/03/how-black-women-describe-navigating-race-and-gender-in-the-workplace?utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_source=newsletter\\_weekly&utm\\_campaign=weeklyho\\_tlist&referral=00202&deliveryName=DM3664](https://hbr.org/2018/03/how-black-women-describe-navigating-race-and-gender-in-the-workplace?utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter_weekly&utm_campaign=weeklyho_tlist&referral=00202&deliveryName=DM3664)
- Intersectional Feminism:
  - <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/2017/01/19/feminism-intersectionality-racism-sexism-class/96633750/>
  - <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/womens-march-anniversary>

There is SO much on the internet about all of these topics! Do your own search. A trusted resource to consult is CSU's Women & Gender Collaborative [education tab](#).