

Writing for Women's Studies

1. If the class is cross-listed, such as SOC 366 which counts for both WST and SOC, write in the style that is appropriate for the cross-listed class (SOC in this example).
2. For classes with a WST designation, papers are much more informal. Citations can be done in APA or MLA style, as long as the writer is consistent. Writing in WST is very fluid and experimental: poems, word experiments, and rants are often acceptable. First person is acceptable. There are typically four types of Women's Studies writing assignments, although women's studies is a creative field, so other forms are encouraged.

How to **analyze a media source** for Women's Studies:

1. Look at the representation of women in the source. Analyze their clothing, their posture, and their facial expression. If there are no women in the source, make a note of that. Look especially to see whether the women in the source are infantilized: are they like little girls? What does this source say about the role of women in society?
2. Analyze the men's actions/ inactions in the source. What are their postures, expressions, and displays of masculinity? What are they doing in relation to the woman and what does that say about male power in society?
3. Pay attention to the context. Is this source advertising a product? If so, who stands to gain from the selling of this product? Look at the product through the lens of a male-dominated economy.

How to **write a reflection/journal** for Women's Studies:

1. Summarizing: Give the main points in the readings or set of readings in two or more paragraphs. What is the big picture? What is the large argument?
2. Brainstorming: What in the reading struck you? Why?
3. Contextualizing: How does this reading/subject tie in with other readings you have done? What theorists can you bring into this discussion?
4. Personalizing: How has your experience informed you in this subject? What has happened in your life to make you interested in this? What personal interactions best illustrate this?
5. Feel free to use first person and to let your passion inform your writing. You can end with a creative piece such as a poem or attached artwork.

How to **write a research paper** for Women's Studies:

1. Find a topic of interest. Read up. Develop an argument. Cite well.

How to **write a literature review** for Women's Studies:

1. Identify sources that are pertinent to the subject/topic you want to focus on.
2. Read through the sources quickly, noting sections that address your subject.
3. Go back through the sources and pull out the sections of interest, writing and citing.
4. Read through your writing and find common themes. Combine sections by theme, not by author. Compare theorists and their different views on the same subject.
5. Build up to your question. A literature review should start broadly and then narrow until the reader feels that the only question left unanswered is the one which you are going to answer. Your research becomes inevitable.