

11/13/19

Dear Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie,

Your book, "We Should All Be Feminists", has had a profound impact on my life. "Feminist" was never a term used commonly in my household, let alone the state of Wyoming. My heavily conservative state kept many things from my mind including the following: feminism, abortion, and even different races. Exposure from literature is one of the only places I have to explore concepts beyond this state. I found my new interest in women's activism during Speech and Debate: however, my full commitment began after I read your book. The part that resonated with me the most is that feminism is not for one gender or one person, it benefits the entire world. Of course I grew up hearing "you hit like a girl" or "only boys can do that". Though they are common phrases, I did not realize how little words can build up over time to create a perspective that looks down on a group of people. Just as *To Kill A Mockingbird* is a revolutionary work of literature that addresses racism, your book is an essential novel for women's activism. The book is a true piece of literary art; your writing style incorporates sad truths mixed with an uplifting sassiness. I love your quote about high heels and lipstick because makeup does not make you a woman, but sometimes it feels nice to have a little something extra. Feminism is about being the free and independent woman you want to be without the social restraints others like to put on us. While reading your book, I feel like I found a new piece of myself: my feminist side. I face issues everyday for being an open feminist in a unwelcoming state, but your book gives ~~me~~ me the courage to stand up for myself and the rest of other women in my state that have yet to find their feminist side. Until then, I will stand strong in my beliefs and hope to help others find their empowerment just as you helped me.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Sumida

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberly Sumida". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.