

Small Group discussions:

Students will get into groups of 3-5 and discuss the following questions. Elect a note-taker to take notes on the discussion for the group. After your discussion, select 3-4 key points for each of the questions. Be prepared to share your key points with the class. Also be prepared to have your note-taker turn in his/her notes to the professor.

1. Wolf argues that even as middle class women in the US have made significant strides in breaking down legal barriers, other issues have hindered their achievements. Explain her argument and discuss what evidence she supplies to prove her claim?
2. According to Wolf, what is the beauty myth and what information does she provide to argue against the beauty myth. Give some specific examples.
3. Wolf argues the beauty myth is the result of men's institutions and power. What does she mean by that claim? What kind of relationship with power does the beauty myth have?
4. The beauty myth is just one of several stories about female identity that emerged during the Victorian era. What are some other examples and to what degree, if any do they still impact contemporary women?
5. What role does the beauty myth play in the repression and control of female bodies? How does living in a society that embraces the beauty myth shape the experience of being a modern women?
6. Why does the beauty myth persist in contemporary culture? What does the author suggest? Do you agree? Why or why not?