



# Investigate the Roles of Men and Women in Today's Society

**Grades:** 6-8  
**Time:** Two class periods  
**Subjects:** Career awareness, language arts, social studies, computer skills

**Description:** This activity will provide students with an opportunity to study and compare the roles of men and women in the past with their roles in today's society.

## Objectives

Students will be able to:

- Investigate the roles of men and women during a specified time period.
- Compare the roles of men and women in the past and present.
- Make predictions about men's and women's roles in the future.

## Materials:

- Pen/pencil
- Paper
- Access to the library or computer lab (Internet access if possible)  
Possible websites for research:
  - [www.historychannel.com](http://www.historychannel.com) (This has a search feature to look up history by decade/timeline.)
  - [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org) (This provides various sections on life in America.)
- Optional: Props for role play activity

## Procedure:

1. Divide class into groups of three to four students.
2. Assign each team a decade or time period to investigate. Teams should research the role of men and women during the assigned period.
3. Have teams compare roles of men and women during their assigned period to their roles today.
4. Ask the teams to brainstorm and to make predictions about men's and women's roles in the future.  
Hint: Encourage students to think outside the box when making their predictions. Remind them that there are no right or wrong answers. Provide them with a time frame for their future period.
5. Have the teams document their studies in written reports, including drawings or illustrations where possible.
6. Have teams present their information (both for the past and future) as a role-play activity for the entire class.

Option: Ask students to write a "day in the life" journal for both the past and future roles of men and women. Journals could include at least one work day and one leisure day. Students could present findings to class.

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### **Evaluation:**

Students will be evaluated based on their research, written reports, participation in making predictions and role-play activity, and team participation.

Source: *Career Development Activities*, CIMC, Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education, ©2002.