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Unequal Participation of Women in United States Politics

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ABSTRACT

United States politics largely lack the participation of women. This lack of participation has been trending consistently downwards even though more and more women find themselves in professional careers. The purpose of this research project was to discover why it is that women do not participate at the same rates as men in politics but to do so within a cultural framework. I arrived at my conclusion through an extensive literature review and the conduction of four, in depth, semi-structured interviews. What I discovered is that most of the discrepancy can be attributed to gender roles that exist in the United States that are reinforced by the media. The media influences the way people view themselves as well as how they view other people. The media in the United States hyper masculinizes politics and portrays it indirectly as a place for men, and simultaneously hyper sexualizes women and drives down their self-confidence or desire to participate because of the criticism they face not based on their intellect but on their physical appearance.