

What is the purpose of this event?

This event focused on African Americans and their place in the world. The purpose of this event was to discuss the role of women, Affirmative Action, higher education, home values, the representation of college students, and appreciating history.

Does this event achieve its purpose? Explain why the event does or does not achieve its purpose ?

This event definitely achieved its purpose. The panel discussed issues about liberating women, such as Hilary Clinton, who are setting high standards for women around the world. Over the decades, women have had more opportunities in the job market and with the growing leadership of women come more equality with men in the work force. The panel also discussed Affirmative Action and the incredibly unfortunate toll that voting “Yes” on proposition 2 this past election has had on the state of Michigan. One person said “We’re not going to allow the world to reach its potential. How can we attract other businesses to the state if we are a non-Affirmative Action state?” Higher education was also brought up in the idea that so many children in high school end at high school. There is currently almost no motivation at home or in schools to further education and go on to college. Home values tied into this when someone on the panel stated that the lack of motivation normally comes from parents. Too many times, parents give their children extreme amounts of money while their children do not have jobs. This makes for a mindset that is less motivating. If a teenager is being fed money from their parents, why would they need a job? The realization of the representation of college students was also brought up. It was also said that many years ago when industries and factories were booming, high schools told the students that college was not necessary because of the hiring that was being done right out of high school for these companies. We, as college students, are actually a very small percentage of the world that has the opportunity and the motivation for higher education. When dealing with the appreciation of history, it was discussed that history is often times seen as dull and uninteresting, but to flourish in knowledge requires the study of history and knowledge of politics.

Would you have done this event differently?

From what I saw from the video, the panel was incredibly organized and the presentation flowed very smoothly. I would not have done this event differently.

Who sponsored this event and why?

Sigma Lambda Beta sponsored this course. They are an African American fraternity who put on this panel discussion to celebrate MLK week.

Why is this event relevant to this course?

This event was relative to this course because some of the subjects the panel spoke about related to **surveillance** from Lasswell’s Model. **Surveillance** is when Mass Mediated Communication covers activities, events, threats, and issues in society. The panel discussed media and how it pertains to the stereotype of college. The woman on the panel stated “Ask one of your younger siblings what they think college is like. They’ll probably answer that it’s full of sororities, fraternities, partying and drinking alcohol. It seems no one focuses on the learning aspect of college anymore.” I believe that surveillance is important here because mass mediated communication covers activities on the news that are becoming major issues in society such as

binge drinking at college campuses and parties on campuses that go completely out of control. If a student in middle school or high school watches the news and sees these stories, their preconceived idea of college is skewed. They could be interested or not interested in college for completely wrong reasons.

What is your reaction to this event?

I thought that this event was well thought out and brought up many valid points. While speaking about higher education, the head of the Financial Aid department here on campus stated that our GPA helps with retrieving scholarships and loans from the financial aid office. I thought that was definitely a great piece of information for the audience to have heard. I also thought that the discussion about Affirmative Action helping primarily minorities *and* women was important information to touch on. Not many people understand that Affirmative Action helps women immensely. Another piece of information that I thought was helpful was bringing up the fact that the teenagers and young adults that are spoiled by their parents usually lack the motivation to do anything in life. I find that to be truer every day and I actually have friends that fall under this category. It's a sad thing to see how parents hinder motivation in their kids when they believe they're doing a good thing by giving them money and material things. Overall, this panel discussion was incredibly well organized and informative.

What is the purpose of this event?

This event was about the definition, opinions, and future of feminism. Each woman discussed their personal lives, their transition into feminism, and their opinions on the feminist movement. There was also a question and answer period for the audience.

Does this event achieve its purpose? Explain why the event does or does not achieve its purpose?

I believe that this event achieved its purpose. Even though the panel spoke on each of their own experiences on how they found themselves to be involved in feminism, they all touched on ideas that followed the purpose of the event. Courtney Martin; a journalist, filmmaker, and teacher, grew up in Brooklyn NY and went through her high school and college career wondering why women were always suffering. At Barnard University she realized that feminism was her calling. She thinks the future of feminism could not necessarily be 100% feminist-filled, but everything could be conversation based around feminism; discussing why certain issues work and not work under the feminists' guide. Gloria Feldt, who served as a national president and CEO of Planned Parenthood Federation of America explained how growing up in a small Texas town was difficult for her. After she had three children by the age of twenty, the birth control pill came on the scene. She stated that having the pill available meant that she could actually have a life. After going to college for twelve years, she was offered her position with Planned Parenthood. Kristal Brent Zook was another author who has written three books and is an award winning journalist. She grew up in a household that was completely run by feminists without having the word 'feminism' uttered in her house. She came into feminism when she realized that women were continuously being dumped on. Deborah Siegel is a writer on women's issues and wrote a newly released book. She found her niche when she was part of a movement with her parents that helped Jewish people that were refused to emigrate. She is greatly influenced by authors who are women of color. The panel then discussed if feminism is solely about being pro choice. Some collectively agreed that women indeed need to be control of their bodies and that the choice for Planned Parenthood is such a remarkable choice that women now have. An audience member brought up the idea of Britney Spears and Paris Hilton constantly being in the media. The audience member wondered who the panel believes are true role models in society. A few names such as Alicia Keys, Natalie Portman and Rosario Dawson were brought up. They all do amazing things that make them wonderful role models, but it's sad to see Britney and Paris being overexposed while these role models are underexposed.

Would you have done this event differently?

From hearing the panel over iTunes, I believe that the discussion went very well. Everyone spoke on matters that were very important to themselves and it was an educational experience.

Who sponsored this event and why?

The programs that sponsored this event in celebration of Women's History Month were: VOX (Voices for Planned Parenthood), University Events, Women's Studies, Program Board, Honors Program, Journalism Department, The Department of Sociology, Social Work, and Anthropology, Public Relations, and the local chapter of NOW (National Organization for Woman).

Why is this event relevant to this course?

Under Lasswell's model, **surveillance** plays a part in this panel discussion. **Surveillance** is when Mass Mediated Communication covers activities, events, threats, and issues in society. At the end of the discussion, one of the women brought up the fact of domestic violence and how the media ignores debates and discussions about the issue. One of the ladies on the panel stated that she was actually being interviewed by a reporter and when the subject of domestic violence came up, the reporter interrupted her and said "I don't want to get started on *that* issue." This example of poor surveillance shows that some reporters for Mass Mediated Communication want to refrain from talking about real problems in the real world.

What is your reaction to this event?

I really enjoyed listening to this event. It was really interesting hearing about each one of the women's accomplishments in life, their childhood background, their transition into feminism, and their opinions on politics and issues concerning women. The audience questions were also very thought provoking and interesting. I thought that an important piece of information that the panel brought up was the increasing news coverage about white women being the largest population of missing people when in fact it is actually young black men who are the largest population. The media automatically assumes that when a young black man is missing, they've obviously done something wrong for them to be missing. The panel also brought up that when they do talk about missing white women, they speak only about who must have killed them or kidnapped them. They never speak about how domestic abuse can lead to missing women and what domestic abuse is about. The panel discussion definitely made me think about the stereotypes of feminists and how misguided we, as a population, are on certain issues.

What is the purpose of this event?

The purpose of this event was to express the moods, the issues, and the final three (McCain, Obama, Clinton) in the election coming up this fall.

Does this event achieve its purpose? Explain why the event does or does not achieve its purpose?

This event definitely achieved its purpose. Zogby outlined his presentation incredibly well. He started off with the mood of the election. He stated that two out of three voters think that the U.S. is in crisis. The majority of those voters are democrats, independents, and 33% republican voters. The last time that the majority of voters said the US was in crisis was after the Watergate scandal. Is the country headed in the right direction? Nineteen percent said yes and 74% said that the country is definitely off track. Zogby believes that the main reason we're in this serious crisis is because of the War in Iraq. He stated that Americans will support a war until it has gone on too long. He also stated that another mood was the return of the 'center' voter. The middle voter gives shape to every election. In March 2004, 48% of the population favored Kerry and 47% favored Bush. Republicans were against Democrats and it was like an American voting war. Recently, with the 2008 election many center voters have emerged. Another mood is that many things we are living in a two parallel political universe. There is now an inability to work with either side; bipartisanship is gone. Zogby also stated that years from now, Katrina will be looked at as more of a defining moment in the US than 9/11. He stated that 9/11 was devastating and certainly was a defining moment in US history, but when Katrina happened, American bonding fell apart. Everyone involved in Katrina realized that their government wasn't there for them at that moment. The issues that American voters want their future president to succeed in are as follows: Can the candidate manage the government? Can they work with leaders over seas? Can they Command the military? Do they have strong personal values? Zogby made it a point that people could care less whether or not their next president has strong *Christian* values; voters want someone with strong personal values. Zogby then spoke about Clinton, Obama and McCain. Basically he stated that Hillary's votes come from older women and Latinos and Obama's votes come from primarily African Americans and young voters (18-29).

Would you have done this event differently?

I wouldn't have done anything differently. His presentation was outlined exactly and his lecture flowed with interesting information that provoked many useful questions at the end.

Who sponsored this event and why?

I called the Central Public Relations Department and they stated that the Philosophy and Religion Department sponsored the event to make way for the upcoming election in November.

Why is this event relevant to this course?

In Lasswell's model, **correlation** is relevant to this presentation. **Correlation** is when mass mediated communication explains how reporting events and issues influence society. Zogby presented a lot of statistical information and presented his ideas on how the election and Bush's time in office has effected the general public in America. For instance, Zogby stated that post 9/11, Americans were polled and 88% were for the War on Terror. When the question was "If the War on Terror lasts at least a year, will you support it?" Seventy-seven percent stated "Yes". When asked if they would support the war if it lasted for 2-3 years, 67% said yes and when asked

about three or more years, 57% said yes. It was interesting finding out these statistics and how a few different situations can influence societies input on issues such as the War in Iraq.

What is your reaction to this event?

I thought it was a very informative and non-biased event. When it comes to politics, my favorite kinds of speakers are non-bias experts speaking on their subject. It's hard to listen to someone who is completely one sided on issues, and because Zogby presented his lecture without any hint of what he favors, it made me more attentive. It was refreshing to listen to someone telling the facts instead of trying to persuade me with biased information. It was also impressive that he knew so much statistical evidence to back up his lecture. I would definitely attend another lecture like his.