

## Matrix Worksheet

### Gender:

West Side Story – In this musical, men are tough, violent, and demanding, represented by both the Jets and the Sharks. The women were viewed as objects, they were to be obedient, delicate, and sit and look pretty. As shown through the song “America”, women were the positive thinkers who believed in being in a country more advanced and freer, but the men found a downside to every statement that they made.

Negron-Muntaner – In the article, Negron-Muntaner describes the character of Nobody's, a white tomboy woman who is so eager to join the Jets. However, the Jets ignore her because she is a woman and insult by saying things like “how else is she going to get a guy to touch her?” or “too ugly”. They compare her with baby John who is the innocent one out of all the Jets, however, he is accepted by the Jets because of his gender.

NYT – In the news article “Jobs That Women Don't Get”, lack of jobs available for women is the main issue discussed. Women are furious because they are being discriminated by men just because of their gender. Women are being offered the “jobs made for women” such as a maid, but aren't being offered or allowed participation in jobs that men “are better at”

### Sexuality:

West Side Story – In the musical, the Jets were mainly known for sexualizing women. For example, when Anita went to Doc's, the Jets didn't want to let her talk to Tony. They were calling her names in Spanish and on top of that tossing that around as if she was an object. They were sexualizing her not only because of her gender but also because of her race considering that she is Puerto Rican. They were close to raping her until Doc walked in and stopped them.

Negron-Muntaner – In the article, Negron-Muntaner mentions how the jets are a reminder of Nobody's abject femininity. They see her as an object with a lack of recognition. And one of the jets say, “how else is she going to get a guy to touch her?” as if that is all women are an object to please men. It is also mentioned that “Anita is almost raped when she transgresses white male territory”. Seems that the jets saw her as “easy access” due to their feeling of superiority among the female gender.

NYT – In the news article “Letters to The Times: Foreign Aid Supported Underlying Purpose in Program of Economic Development Considered to Curtail Sex Crimes Soviet Production of Food For Middle East Peace Arab Policy Said to Continue to Adhere to Lausanne Protocol Frank Costello and Youth”, the author is disappointed with the fact that recently released sexual offenders are still roaming the streets, and even worse without surveillance. The author mentions that its unsafe for not only women but children as well, and that there are likely to repeat the crimes that got them busted in the first place.

### Race:

West Side Story – In the musical, the Puerto Ricans were given a stereotype of having brown skin and the fake accents were a mockery of real Puerto Rican Culture. The musical was written with the idea of what White men had of Puerto Ricans. None of the actors in the musical were of Puerto Rican descent.

Negron-Muntaner – Negron-Muntaner mentions that “West Side Story constructs the Puerto Rican male subject as a criminal”. This is seen when Lieutenant Schrank gives the sharks shameful identifications because of their race. The film was seen by many critics as racial propaganda that was used to insult Puerto Ricans due to the lack of accurate representation of the culture.

NYT – In the article “MEANY BERATES JEWELERS' UNION” Puerto Ricans are being abused in their workplace. They aren't being paid fairly nor receiving the same benefits as others. This article discusses the changes that are wanted to be made in these workplaces.

**Class:**

West Side Story – In the musical, both the Puerto Ricans and the Americans were in the same social class. They were both in gangs, living in the “slums” of New York, and poor. There wasn't any representation of rich or higher-class people. Which brings the idea that if both races came from and lived in the same conditions, why were the Americans (jets) being racist towards the Puerto Ricans (sharks).

Negron-Muntaner – Negron-Muntaner mentions, “For many Puerto Rican spectators who identify with the narrative, West Side Story is a morality play about “our” everyday problems: racism, poverty, and the destructiveness of violence.” Puerto Ricans are automatically placed in the lower classes.

NYT – In this news article “CHANGE FORESEEN IN CITY'S MAKE-UP”, Puerto Rican population is expected to increase by 28% in America. One claim is made saying that Puerto Ricans come to America to do the dirty work. Thus, showing that as soon as Puerto Ricans come to the United States, they are automatically placed with minorities. “They are needed at the base of the pyramid that supports all the rest of us who don't do the dirty work”.