

Amanda Bobb
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GAH 2358

Name? Stephanie Tarr
Age? 29
Education level? Graduate School -- Master of Arts in Teaching
Current profession? High school history teacher
Marital status? Married
Race/Ethnicity? White
Hometown? Brigantine, NJ
Political affiliation? Democrat
Religion? (Or, would you consider yourself a religious/ spiritual person?) Jewish
Relationship to me (the interviewer)? You were my student your freshman year of high school.

Do you have children? No

What do you know about feminism? If you're talking about the history of the actual movement, then I took a Women's Studies course in college and learned about the history of the movement. I've read Betty Friedan, Gloria Steinam, etc.

Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not? If you wouldn't call yourself a feminist is there another term that better describes you? I would consider myself a feminist because not only do I believe in equality for women in all areas, but I also fight for this equality through writing to legislators, protesting, and attempting to instill in the girls I teach a sense of self-worth.

What do you think of the media's portrayal of the female body? Does it impact your own perception of your body? How or why not? I feel that the media pressures women to have an unrealistic view of the female body. TV, movies, and print ads tell women that, in order to be desired, they must be a size 0 and/or have large breasts. For a long time, these media images affected me. However, once I began to feel comfortable in my own skin, I started ignoring what the media told me and instead paid attention to what body size made me feel comfortable. As a result, I now feel no pressure to be thin.

As a child were you ever told you couldn't do something simply because you were a girl? What was the situation? It wasn't exactly as a child, but here's the story: My father was a long-time Eagles season ticket holder. I always wanted to go to football games with my dad and share in a little of that excitement with him. However, my dad would only take me to preseason games because he felt that regular season games were "no place for a lady." He thought that I shouldn't be exposed to the drinking, swearing, and "disrespect" of Eagles fans as a respectable young woman.

Were you ever told you couldn't be what you wanted to be when you grew up because you were a girl? If yes, who told you to and why? If no, who encouraged you to be whatever you wanted to be? I always wanted to be a teacher and I was always

encouraged to be by both of my parents. My mom and dad encouraged me to do well in school, and if I worked hard, I could do anything I wanted. I always felt that my parents would be supportive of me no matter what.

As a woman do you feel pressured to be successful family/home life, Business/ work life, income and appearance? I do feel pressured to be successful, but only because I think I pressure myself. Income isn't that much of a concern to me. Being wealthy would be nice, but money won't buy happiness for me.

What defines a successful women in your mind? To me, a successful woman is one who has attained the goals she has set for herself and continues to learn and grow as a person. It doesn't matter to me if the person is a CEO of a company or a stay-at-home mom; if those are the goals she set for herself and she is happy, then she is a successful woman.

What factors influence your opinion of what defines a successful woman? My religious beliefs largely factor in to my definition of success. In Judaism, you have lived a good life if you are an ethical and kind person. If any person can do that, they are successful to me.

Has your understanding of success changed over the years?

Definitely. I thought success was a fancy car, big house, handsome husband, and 2.5 kids. I have grown to realize that many of those people aren't really happy, and, therefore, (to me) aren't successful.

As an adult do you feel you are ever treated differently because of your gender? How so? I sometimes feel like I am expected to act a certain way -- helpless, demure -- and when I don't, I am seen as the "bitch." In my class, I am often challenged by my male students because they have this seemingly subconscious aggression toward women in positions of authority.

Do you like being treated differently because you are a woman or would you prefer it didn't happen? Does it depend on the situation? Please explain. I really depends on the situation. Once in a while, I actually like having the power of getting what I want just because I batted my eyelashes at a man. On the other hand, I wouldn't want people to assume I'm stupid about something just because I'm a woman.

How would you define gender equality? Would you say gender equality is important to you? Why or why not? To me, gender equality is men and women having the same rights under the law. Gender equality is very important to me. All human beings, regardless of any differences among them, deserve to have the same rights as the person standing next to them.

It's often assumed that women are more emotional than men? Do you agree or disagree with that common assumption? I think woman are more EMPATHETIC than

men, and I think that it's a result of our inborn mothering instinct. I don't believe it's a matter of emotionality.

Do you think a female president would be able to handle tough situations as well as a male president? Of course! I feel that women have better communication skills than men. When a conflict arises, women tend to want to talk and deal with the situation head-on. Men, on the other hand, tend to avoidance. I think this ability for a woman to talk things out and see the big picture would be an asset to the office of the president.