

1. What is your:
  - Name?  
A: Laurel English
  - Age?  
A: I am 20 years old.
  - Education level?  
A: I am currently in college.
  - Marital status?  
A: I am single right now. With no boyfriend at the moment.
  - Race/Ethnicity?  
A: I'm Caucasian.
  - Hometown/ where were you born?  
A: I was born in Englewood, NJ.
  - Political affiliation?  
A: I guess I would consider myself to be Republican however it depends on what issues are being discussed as well.
  - Religion?  
I am Catholic, but I don't go to church regularly. I sort of believe in my own thing, but yes I would consider myself to be a spiritual person.
  - Relationship to me (the interviewer)?  
A: We are family friends.
  
2. Do you have children?  
A: Now I don't have children. It's not the right time in my life. I am going to school and do not have a husband. I do want children, though. When the time is right.
  
3. What do you know about feminism? Do you consider yourself a feminist? Why or why not?  
A: I just know things that I have picked up here and there in classes and in life. I think my idea of a feminist has to do with strong women, fighting for equal rights with men. I do believe myself to be a feminist because I was raised by a single mother and have always been taught that women can do anything a man can do. I know that I live my life in that way, so I would definitely call myself a feminist.
  
4. What do you think of media's portrayal of the ideal female body? Does it impact your own perception of your body? How or why not?  
A: Now I think that the ideal female body represented by the media is so out of touch with the average woman. I think that they portray women to be stick thin and all made up with makeup. I try not to let it impact my idea of what I should look like but I know it does. These images are everywhere and it is hard not to be effected by it.
  
5. As a child were you ever told you couldn't do something simply because you were a girl? What was the situation? 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 and why? If no, who encouraged you to be whatever you wanted to be?

A: As a child I never remember anyone telling me I couldn't do something because I was a girl. That was an idea that was very foreign to me and I am happy about it. When it came to encouraging me to do whatever I wanted to I would have to give most of that credit to my mother. She always wanted the best for me and I always felt she was proud of me. She believes in me and my abilities even more than her own. It is something that bothers me about her because I think she is so strong but she doesn't seem to see it. But as a child I always knew that I could do anything and my mother would be proud of me.

6. As a woman do you feel pressured to be successful in the fields of family/home life, business/work life, income and appearance? What defines a successful woman in your mind? What factors influence your opinion of what defines a successful woman? Has your understand of success changed over the years?

A: Well when it comes to family and home, I have always been taught to clean up after yourself just out of pride. My mother always cooked and cleaned but it was mostly because I did not grow up with a father. She was the only one there to do any of that. In business I do feel a need to work very hard and be the best and I do feel a lot of pressure to make money because that has always been a struggle for my family. I don't necessarily think that any of this has to do with my being a woman. I think it just is about the way I was raised and how I grew up. A successful woman in my mind does not need to rely on anyone except herself. My mom influences my opinion about this because she got married completely relying on a man. When she knew it was time for her to get out of the relationship her decisions were based most of the time on money. She did not have a job or her own money and I think that it is important to remember that no matter what happens a woman needs to be able to protect herself. I think that these ideas are something that I have grown up with so I don't think they have changed much over the years.

7. As an adult do you ever feel that you are treated differently due to your gender? How so? 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.

A: I think definitely I am treated differently because I am a woman. Men often think that I am not as smart or as capable as they are. I like to think that it doesn't bother me and this is why. I use all of it to my advantage. If people are expecting less of me I work hard and they are surprised. Sometimes men will help me and I let them. Because they think I am not a threat I can come right from under them and they are not prepared for what is coming.

8. How would you define gender equality? Would you say gender equality is important to you? Why or why not?

A: I guess gender equality would be defined as a time when gender didn't play a roll in anything. When a man and women were up for a job and it was only based on ability. This concept is important to me because I am a woman and believe myself to

be just as capable if not more than a man. I believe that when it comes to jobs being hired has a lot to do with gender and I don't think it is a good thing at all.

9. It's often assumed that women are more emotional than men. Do you agree or disagree with that common assumption? Do you think a female president would be able to handle tough situations as well as a male president?

A: I do not think that women are more emotional than men. Men and women have an equal amount of emotions, they just show them in different ways. A man might get angry and violent while a woman might cry. They are equally emotional. I believe that a female president can handle situations of crisis just as well as a man can. They handle tough situations everyday. Women are usually the ones that men go to for help during their own tough situations.