

Question Script for NJ Women's Voices Interview

1) What is your:

Name? PJ Murphy

Age? 48

Education level? Senior in College

Current profession? Special Education Teaching Assistant

Marital status? Married

Race/Ethnicity? White

Hometown/where were you born? Elizabeth, NJ

Political affiliation? Independent

Religion? (Or, would you consider yourself a religious/spiritual person?) I am very spiritual and believe in God but do not have a particular religious affiliation.

Relationship to me (the interviewer)? Family friend

2) In what format did the interview take place? E-mail

3) Do you have children? Yes, Six children, 2 girls; one 31 and the other 19 years old. There are four boys, ages 28, 27, 20 and 17 years old.

4) What do you think about full-time stay-at-home mothers? I chose to be a full time stay at home mom for some time and would support any woman's decision whether it be to stay home or return to work.

What about full-time stay-at-home fathers? Great idea if that is works for your family! If you have or plan to have children, what influenced, influences or will influence your decision about how to manage childcare? The amount of money we made influenced how we managed childcare-we could not afford to pay for it.

5) For you, what defines a woman? Is there anyone you can think of that embodies these qualities? My great grandmother has always been my roll model for as long as I can remember. She has always had to work, even when women did not usually work in her time. She was always baking and sewing and knitting and teaching my sister and me how to do these things. Grandma was always happy and smiling and counting her blessings and telling us how special we were. She was “old school” and cleaned and scrimped and saved and all with love and a smile on her face (she was always a single parent) teaching us this was the way.

6) What do you believe is the most challenging part about being a woman in today’s society? Not enough time to balance a full time job with the over scheduled life of the children. What personal struggles have you faced as a woman? Balancing night school, job, husband, children, and friends, family and finding some time to fit anything else into the day!

7) Do you think we still live in a society where women are sexually exploited by or oppressed by men? Why or why not? Yes we do. We cannot keep our heads in the sand forever, there is human trafficking, especially young woman throughout the world and this has been reported on the worldwide news many times. Why doesn’t our government help put a stop to this sex slave industry? (What examples/evidence would you point to support your ideas?)

8) Have you personally experienced sexism or know of anyone who has? If you have, briefly describe the situation and its outcome.

9) Do you believe there is still a double-standard when it comes to men’s and women’s sexual behaviors? For example, is society still more tolerant of men who have sex with multiple partners? Are there behaviors that women can exhibit that men cannot? Women are still considered whores if they sleep around and are “dirty and pigs”. Guys are not judged that harshly.

10) It's often assumed that women are more emotional than men. Do you agree or disagree with that common assumption? Often women are more emotional because men have been taught to stuff their emotions and not to cry in public.

Do you think a female president would be able to handle tough situations as well as a male president? Of course a female president could do an outstanding job as president and handle the job maybe even better than a man!

11) What do you know about feminism? 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 know about women such as Dorothy Day and Jane Fonda and couple of others. I want equal rights and respect for women. I love when my husband opens the door for me, however I never expect it, and I certainly open it for him once in awhile! I am not a full fledged feminist however equal pay for equal work all the way, and no more human trafficking!!