

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, June 10, 2016

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Article Title: Clinton's perseverance and grit could get her to White House

Section: Main, A3

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of **grit**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

"And Clinton's very durability — her tenacity, **grit** and capacity for enduring and overcoming adversity — could be exactly what is required to defeat Donald Trump."

Comprehension Questions

1. Clinton's steely fortitude in this campaign has plainly inspired what groups that see her perseverance as a mirror to their own struggles?
2. Clinton, 68, has redefined the role of women in U.S. politics each time she has reinvented herself. What political positions has she held?
3. For 14 straight years, and 20 in all, Clinton has been named what, according to a yearly Gallup poll?
4. Her favorability and trustworthiness ratings have plummeted recently. Why?
5. Clinton came of age in the feminist movement in the 1960s at Wellesley College — where she urged her peers to do what?
6. Her campaign has cycled through a half-dozen slogans. What are they?
7. What she has lacked in rhetorical brio, she may have made up for by doing what?

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

It was with that same grit that Clinton picked herself up after a bruising defeat by Obama in 2008, when she assured a crowd of tearful female supporters, eight years ago to the day, that they had made 18 million cracks in "the highest, hardest glass ceiling."

- What is the definition of a glass ceiling?
- Do you believe it exists today? Why or why not?

But if she seemed to embody contradictions, they also reflected a society in which expectations of women — and women's expectations for themselves — were rapidly changing.

- What are society's expectations of women in today's society?
- What are women's expectations for themselves?

If age-old antipathies to Clinton can be chalked up, in part, to Americans' struggles to adjust to changing gender roles at home, at work and in politics, her history of political combat has also left scar tissue that, in part, defines the candidate she is: wide-eyed about the realities of Washington, but cautious and wary to a fault.

- Do you believe gender roles are changing at home, work and politics? How?
- What gender roles do you see in your own home or family? Are they changing at all? How? In what ways?

“People are so undecided about how they feel about female leadership, and it’s something people really struggle with,” said Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y. “The ambiguity about Hillary is outside of her. It comes from people’s own perspectives.”

Attitudes about female leadership eventually may change. And in talking to reporters Monday, hours before reports that she had clinched the nomination, Clinton looked past November to a time when future female presidential candidates may not require so much durability and grit to have a shot at the White House.

“It’s predominantly women and girls, but not exclusively — men bring their daughters to meet me and tell me that they are supporting me because of their daughters,” Clinton said. “And I do think that it will make a very big difference for a father or a mother to be able to look at their daughter just like they can look at their son and say, ‘You can be anything you want to be in this country, including president of the United States.’”

- How do you feel about female leadership?
- Why do people struggle with this concept?
- When will these views really change?

As of this week, it’s official: Hillary Clinton will be the first woman presidential nominee from a major political party. History has been made.

- How do you feel about Clinton?
- If she wins, what will *female leadership* in the White House look like? Will it be any different, than those leaders before her? Why or why not?

Essay

Who are the female leaders and role models in your life? How has their influence impacted you? In what way? Share this story.

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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