

## What Does Female Empowerment Mean to You?

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When I close my eyes, I imagine the world years from now. I see women not walking down the streets worried that they might be raped. I see women's clothing not being used as evidence in a rape trial. I see women being allowed to choose abortion. I see women having the equal pay to men. I see women's necessities not being ranked as a luxury. I see women not being told that the kitchen is where they belong. I see a beautiful world, where everyone is equal. But I open my eyes and I see reality. It's not good.

However, I think about the world one hundred years ago and I see how far we've come. I see women being engineers. I see women being CEOs. And I close my eyes again and I see myself doing a job that I love because of all the women who fought for our rights and empowered others to speak up. One hundred years ago, if I even thought about becoming anything other than a housewife, I would be mocked.

When you ask what female empowerment means to me, I'll think about my Mom, my teachers, and my friends and I'll say that it means enabling others to speak up. It means being there for one another. It means fighting for our rights.