

## DISCUSSION PROMPT- Week one

We selected essays to read in search for ways to analyze the world we are in – and to better understand our ongoing relations of exploitation and oppression. We're reading them to think through and alongside the movements we are part of, and the challenges our movements face. We're studying revolutionary feminist methods to think about how we can build better alliances, and how to better see the class/gender/sexuality/race stakes of our political goals. Given those embedded stakes in our politics, revolutionary feminist methods can help to sharpen our long-term strategies, and short-term tactics.

In class on Wednesday, you were asked to choose an object in your immediate surroundings that, in your opinion, either supports patriarchal oppression or resists patriarchal oppression—or that symbolizes elements of both (support of and resistance to).

Today, we want you to build further on this exercise. Talk a little about your objects, whether objects of resistance to patriarchy, or objects of patriarchal domination and support. They might carry both qualities.

Describe your choice to the group – and what it signifies for you. We will call both the thing you chose and your description of what it signifies 'the object.'

After everyone has a chance to discuss their object (and if they didn't choose one then, they can choose one now or choose a different one, etc.), think about commonalities, differences, overlaps between these objects, the thought process behind them, their context, etc. Keep track of the discussion and the moments of particular illumination. **In particular, please reflect on how you are thinking about the object, and how you arrive at your conclusions. What definitions do you use? How might your understanding change in different moments and different contexts?**

\*What generalities, or abstractions can you draw out of these connections and differences?

\*What theories of domination are embedded in your discussions about the objects? What theories of resistance emerge?

\*What are important relations of power embedded in your objects? What human relations are embedded in your objects?

\*What kinds of labor and work make your objects possible?

\*What are sites of contradiction in these objects? Your discussion may include contradictions between the liberatory promises of an object and its exploitative relations of production. They could be contradictions between the object's use and its raced, classed or gendered demands on the person who uses it.