Caitlin Spillane Professor Oakes WRT 205 4 August 2021

## Reflection

For this research portfolio I knew I wanted to focus on the theme of sexism within a narrowed down organization so that I could compare what I learned in this unit to my research that I did in unit 1 on sexism in the police force. This time, right before we started our research, I was reminded of a video I saw where the speaker's pain had been ignored due to her gender and then she later found out she had a very serious illness. I tried finding this reference later, but unfortunately was not able to. Despite not finding my initial inspiration, I decided that this would be a very good topic to research because it is something that I might encounter someday, and I should be somewhat prepared.

Before I started my research, I figured that it would be advantageous to include background information on why there are so many biases within the medical field as a whole even before incorporating the biases against female patients into it. Therefore, I chose to split my research between the misogyny against the female healthcare professionals and then move into the sexism against the patients.

I wanted to have a wide variety of types of sources so, even though I concentrated on scholarly sources from the Syracuse University library database, I still wanted to branch out and find different types of sources as well. This lead me into a search on google for decent websites to use, where I found a very informative New York Times article and a TEDtalk that fit the overall theme nicely. During my research process I tried to utilize different ways to find sources like the one assignment we had suggested. While this did help me in some ways, it also made me very uncomfortable, which makes sense because its aim was to get us out of our comfort zone. I can see myself using Google Scholar again but that might be it.

After conducting my research and compiling my annotations, I realized just how mad all this information made me. Women's lives are endangered due to the biases of the medical field and the ignorance of the healthcare professional superiors that are not doing anything to change the internal misogyny of the field. From the fact that there are not many high ranking females in the profession to women being told that their pain is all in their head, change needs to happen.

This issue is something that I want to continue researching and I think it would be beneficial to look into other countries and see how they treat women in the healthcare profession. Something else I noticed while researching, is that these biases can also go both ways. Many males have their mental health issues overlooks and ignored which is unacceptable. Mental health is something that is extremely important to me and I believe that everyone deserves to be able to ask for help and not be judged for needing it.