

The selfie I chose to exhibit in this response paper was taken after seeing the countdown clock appear at Taylor Swift's Eras Tour. I have been listening to Taylor Swift since I was five years old but never had the opportunity to see her perform live. Two weeks before the concert, I managed to get nosebleed tickets; getting tickets was such an emotional moment for me that I started sobbing. I don't think I will ever be so excited again for something in my life. This moment and image are a feminist selfie because it shows a young woman completely comfortable and happy in a space free from scrutiny.

In the film *Barbie* (2023), Gloria says "I'm just so damn tired of watching myself and every single other woman tie ourselves in knots so that people will like us." As we discussed in class, this speech encapsulates how it feels to live as a woman in today's society, but more specifically it resonates with my experience. Women are constantly living under the microscope. It feels as though everything we do sparks a discussion in some way, whether it be positive or negative. I have watched as women have been scrutinized for their passionate love of things men see as unconventional, such as Taylor Swift. Women can only ever be too excited and "crazy" about their favorite singers, sports, or celebrities, but men are merely passionate and invested. The distinct double standards between the way male fans and female "fangirls" react to their interests create an important dialogue in modern feminism. For example, the UK National Center for Domestic Violence reports that "domestic abuse incidents increase by 26% when [the British] national team plays, 38% if they lose, and 11% the day after, regardless of the outcome."¹ This statistic demonstrates the normalization of men's violent over-reactions to their favorite sports team. Despite this, women's excitement will always seem too much. You can be excited, but

¹Somerset Council, "Domestic Abuse Expected to Spike During International Football Games," Somerset.gov.uk. <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/news/domestic-abuse-expected-to-spike-during-international-football-games/>

don't cry; happy but don't be crazy; mad but don't yell. The box in which the patriarchy forces conformity onto women prevents true expression. At that moment, I never felt judged for crying at the Taylor Swift concert, it was not until I saw the way men were speaking about the "fan girl" phenomenon that I stopped to question the vitality of female expression.

