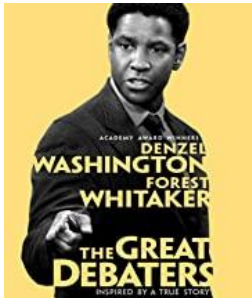




MOVIES THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Compiled from the recommendations of HERlead Fellows and the HERlead Team



THE GREAT DEBATERS

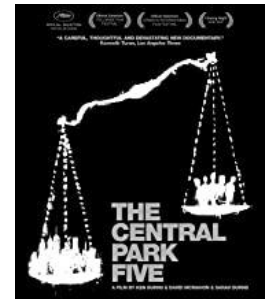
Based on a true story, this film follows the journey of the first Black debate team as they compete in the national debate championship. Set in 1935, it tells the story of Professor Melvin B. Tolson, who teaches at the historically-Black Wiley College in Texas. He finds one of the first debate teams at a Black college and leads them all the way to the national championship.

Recommended by: HERlead Fellow Jordyn Allen

THE CENTRAL PARK FIVE

This documentary portrays the true story of the Central Park Five, five teenagers who were wrongly convicted of assaulting a woman in 1989. It tells the story of a horrific crime, the rush to judgment by police, media poised to share sensational stories, and the lives of 5 young men whose lives changed forever by a miscarriage of justice.

Recommended by: HERlead Fellow Lauren Forney



HIDDEN FIGURES

This film tells the story of Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, and Katherine Gubels Johnson, three African-American women working for NASA during the Space Race. These mathematicians had an indispensable role in one of the most amazing feats in history; launching astronaut John Glenn into space and helping him return safely back to earth.

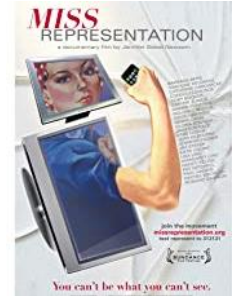
Recommended by: HERlead Fellow Kenzie Paul



MISS REPRESENTATION

The documentary Miss Representation explores how media and culture promote stereotypes that directly impact women's representation in public life. From politics to music to film & TV, it delves into these harmful messages, tells the stories of prominent women, and provides ways to combat these messages to foster inclusive representation.

Recommended by: HERlead Fellow Katie Laskey



CODE: DEBUGGING THE GENDER GAP

This documentary exposes the lack of women and minorities in STEM fields, and explores why there is this gender gap and digital divide. Not only does this film explore the gender gap, it provides resources and solutions as to how this gap can be closed.

Recommended by: HERlead Fellow Hana Memon

KNOCK DOWN THE HOUSE

This groundbreaking documentary shares the journey of four working class candidates, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Amy Vilela, Cori Bush, and Paula Jean Swearengin, as they take on established politicians and make history in the 2018 U.S. midterm elections.

Recommended by: HERlead Fellow Bridget McManamon



THE WHITE RIGHT: MEETING THE ENEMY

This Emmy-winning documentary shares the journey of Deeyah Khan, a queer Muslim filmmaker, as she goes around the country interviewing and building relationships with white supremacists. Through this journey, she appeals to their humanity, and manages to convince one leader to leave the movement.

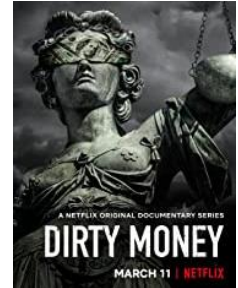
Recommended by: HERlead Fellow Yamira Patterson



DIRTY MONEY

In this docuseries, each episode focuses on and exposes a different form of corruption, with topics ranging from how pharmaceutical companies skyrocket prescription prices to how major banks have attempted to silence whistleblowers to crippling payday loan practices.

Recommended by: HERlead Fellow Isabelle Tudor Schwartz



BECOMING

In this documentary, former first lady Michelle Obama shares her unplugged life story for the first time. From growing up on the south side of Chicago to where she is today, this is a powerful film about her journey, hopes, and connections to others as she tours with her book, "Becoming".

Recommended by: Kristen McAvoy, Program Manager, Vital Voices

DOLORES

This documentary tells the story of Dolores Huerta, a tireless advocate for the rights of migrant workers, and co-founder of United Farm Workers with Cesar Chavez. As a female activist, her contribution has been largely overshadowed, and this documentary highlights her immense role in the racial and labor justice movement, as well as the feminist movement.

Recommended by: Emily Landes, Program Coordinator, Vital Voices



All movie poster images taken from IMDB.