

Questions on *The Life and Times of Rosie the Riveter* and *The Feminine Mystique*

Homework Assignment: Write about Ques. 1, 3 and 5 (about 1 pg.- 1 ½ pg.)

1. Why do you think that the filmmaker (Connie Field) selected these five women to tell the story of U.S. women during World War II? How does the style of this film compare to that of *Ida B Wells: Passion for Justice*?
2. How did the needs of the defense economy during World War II contribute to a rethinking of biological essentialist arguments about “woman’s place” and the nature of masculinity and femininity?
3. What is the effect of viewing the contrast between the U.S. government propaganda and the women’s lives? How does the filmmaker use voice-over?
4. How does the postwar conservative shift in gender roles after 1945 affect these women? What does the film present as the meaning of their World War II experience?
5. What connections do you make between Friedan’s first chapter of *The Feminine Mystique* and the film?

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