50th Anniversary of Coeducation: The Written History Project

Over the years, a small number of individuals have been interviewed or have written about their experiences of the early years of coeducation at Yale. However, most women in the Classes of ’71, ’72, and ’73 have not had the opportunity to contribute to the history of this remarkable period. As we near the 50-year mark, “getting the history right” seems more important than ever. The Written History Project (WHP) – and the companion Oral History Project (OHP) – seek to do this by capturing the voices of a more diverse and encompassing group of the women, as well as others, who came to Yale in 1969 and/or participated in this extraordinary transformation. We invite you to contribute to this effort to gather our written stories.

We hope the Written History Project will enable you to share memories/tell the stories about coeducation and its context that you feel are important and want to tell.

INSTRUCTIONS

About the Written History Project

Written submissions (minimally edited for grammar or sense) will be collected and, along with the Oral History Project videos, will become part of an archive in the Manuscripts and Archives division of Sterling Memorial Library at Yale where they will be available to library users and researchers. We also expect to publish the written submissions in digital or book format (and potentially both) for limited distribution to classmates and others.

Among the goals of the history projects is to educate the broader Yale community as well as others about coeducation and the era in which it occurred. In addition to the uses mentioned above, select edited portions of individual essays also may be used on a Yale website - most likely the 50WomenAtYale150 website - or in a printed format where material will be accessible to the general public.

About Your Submission

The content of your essay or reflection is yours to determine. We want you to share memories/tell the stories about coeducation and its context that you feel are important. We encourage you to refer to the prompts sheet, but please don’t feel constrained by them; they may be helpful to jog your memories.

- **Style:** You may submit one comprehensive essay, or several anecdotes, with a focus on your years at Yale, or context about where you came from before Yale, or what you have done since Yale (whether thanks to or despite your Yale experience).
- **Historical Context:** For modern readers, it may be appropriate to describe your recollections about the time and context in which coeducation took place – e.g., no email or internet, much more prescribed roles for women, etc.
- **Original work:** Of course, anything you submit should be YOUR original work.
- **Truth:** Although we do not want fiction, we recognize that your memories may have evolved over the past fifty years. We like the standard used by NPR’s The Moth radio show, “True, as remembered and affirmed” by the author.
- **Format:** Your submission should be written in Word. Once it is in final form, you should copy and paste it to the box on the survey form. We suggest you also save a copy for your records. We plan to undertake only minor editing – for grammar and sense.
- **Length guidelines:** There is no maximum length, but as a general guideline, we expect that submissions will not exceed 3-5 pages. If your submission is longer, we reserve the right to excerpt from it. Of course, you are welcome to submit something much shorter.
• **Photos:** If appropriate, you may submit photographs or copies of other documentation relevant to your submission. Photographs must be identified in some way (who is in the photo, where or when it was taken) and preferably taken by the donor. Any supplemental information should be submitted in .jpg or .pdf format.¹

• **Permission and License:** Everyone who submits a reflection must also sign the WHP [Permission and License form](#). Your submission cannot be accepted or reviewed until you have done so. The form can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

If you have any questions, you may email [yalecoeducation50@yale.edu](mailto:yalecoeducation50@yale.edu).

Thank you for participating!

¹If you wish to submit other photos or documents not directly relevant to your WHP submission, please refer to the link for collection of archival material.