How Women Pursued Their American Dream

Back in the 1960’s women were perceived as a typical housewife to societies. Women were to marry a man, have children with them, and stay at home taking care of their children while the husband works all day. A housewife is supposed to stay loyal to the husband as well. Furthering my research, in the present day women and men both have occupations, do the cooking, care and clean the house. Some husbands are stay at home dads who care for the children instead of the other way around. I think the novel Revolutionary Roads written by Richard Yates is the perfect example of how women and men rebelled against society. My investigative question would be: how did men and women overcome the ways books and television portrayed them from the 1960’s to 2010.

The purpose of this investigation is to see how much change society has looked at women and men and how much change men and women had been through. By looking at different pieces of writings from different generations of time will help depict the changes that society has taken on women and their wants and needs. While looking at these different pieces of writing I could pull out words such as “women,” “men,” and “work,” and see how many times they are used together in a bigram, or trigram. I could also see how these words relate to one another or connect to one another. I could also see if these words also connect to other words such as jobs, education or even money.

Looking back in the decade of the 1940s, when World War II was erupting, women had jobs as receptionists or nurses, but they wanted to be more worthy of their knowledge. Looking at posters such as Rosie the Riveter gave women hope that they could actually go
out to earn money. Women would not be seen as just a housewife. A lot of women starting from the 1980’s or maybe even a bit earlier started to have a chance to go to school and the same education and work experience as men did.

Using the novel *Revolutionary Road*, the main characters April and Jack Wheeler have been married with two children at such a young age. April has always wanted to go out into the “real world” to pursue her dreams as an actress, but getting pregnant at a young age has put a halt to that. She has always wanted to go out and gain work, while her husband did not want to work anymore. During that time, society looked down upon any women who wanted to go find work. April obtained a job in Paris, while Jack could care for the kids in a new country, but another pregnancy has yet again put an end to that dream. I need to research more books on the successions of women pursuing their American Dreams. I could also use television scripts such as scripts from “I Love Lucy,” as a participant in this research. Lucy and Ricky is a married couple in the show where Ricky goes out to work, and Lucy stays home to cook and tend to Ricky’s needs whenever he gets home. Lucy is desperately looking for a start in her career, and Ricky desperately wants Lucy to have his child. In one of the episodes, Lucy finds work acting in a television show, one where Ricky works at as well. Lucy ends up doing a fabulous job, and the employees and fans love her. However, Ricky was not so happy about this because Lucy was doing a better job than he was, and he did not want Lucy to be employed in the first place.