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Reading Response

In the book “May 68’ and it’s afterlives” the author Kristin Ross states his thoughts on the students and workers movement in France back in 1968. In the article from The New York Times “The Second Life of a Pussy Hat” by Ellen McCormack states how other women try to make a statement of their “lady power” by wearing pink hat. However, they are all have one common point is describe the movements and how they affect to the society.

What students and workers are fighting in the “May 68’ and it’s afterlives” is for Protesting capitalism, American imperialism, and Gaullism. However, I think if the whole book summed up to one sentence it will be the “Within that teleology, May was to be understood as an affirmation of the status quo, a disruption in the service of consensus, a transformation of consciousness, a generational revolt of the young against structural rigidities that were blocking the necessary momentum of cultural modernization in France.”¹ It expressed precisely the message of what author is trying to send to the readers. A lucid and convincing challenge to those who attempted to reduce the significance of the events of

¹ Kristin Ross, *May 68’ and it’s afterlives*, page 6

May '68 in France by compartmentalising and categorizing those who took part. The author passionately argues against the misrepresentation of the protesters, their background and intentions and advocates for the real significance of those amazing times.

How do we define feminism? And how do we gather our “lady power?” We can find the answer in the article “The Second Life of a Pussy Hat.” as a girl, a woman, we should fight for what against us and united together. Feminism is a good word and don’t misinterpret it. We are fighting to protect our rights and it is a long process to where we are today. In the article, I find one line that can describe my feeling on the pink hat. “I wear it when I need to get my ‘lady power’ up.”² It is a simple sentence and almost too ordinary. However, for me this is a very important sentence. She doesn’t treat the hat as some trophy and just display at her closet, she actually wears it and quite often, it truly sinks to her everyday life, and that makes what seems ordinary to a meaningful thing. The hat ignited her desire to protest, and so does a symbol where she gains her lady power. This little pink hat represents her voice and attitude, and I called it “pink power” hat.

Both of the book/article are great not because of the style of writing, but moreover they are sending the message of how should we protest and fight to the things that are wrong and defend our rights to the end. Like those brave students from May movement 1968 and even the modern women, mark their statement of being feminist by wearing the pink hat and telling the world this is their sign of “lady power,” which is truly amazing and inspiring.

² Ellen McCormack, *The Second Life of a Pussy Hat*, page 2

