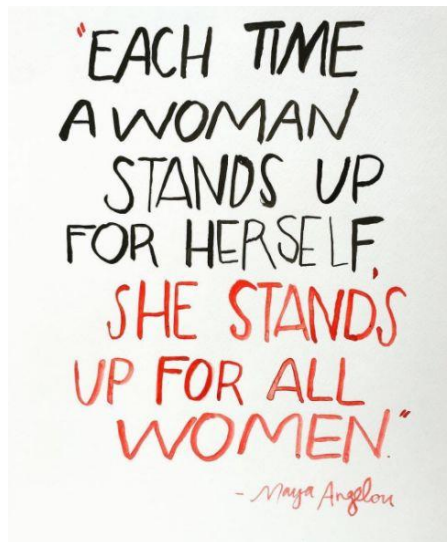


# What We Don't Need to Prove as Women

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By Are We There Yet



"Women who don't wear makeup to work make people think they are less motivated (not fair, I know, but it's reality)." (Trunk, 2017)

I had to stop and read that again, thinking I must have read it wrong. I checked the date. Maybe I had stumbled on an article from 1952. Nope, 2017 it is.

Not wearing makeup to work makes you look unmotivated? This is the advice we get, spoon-fed to us as if we are babies. As if our professional qualifications don't count.

I am trying to raise my girls to be independent women. I want them to know that their voice, and their opinions, count. That they are ultimately responsible for themselves and their actions, and that both their actions and their words are important. And that most of all, it is who we are as people, it is our acts, our words and gestures that make a difference in this world. Not how much makeup we may, or may not, wear.

In our family, we have seen many doctors and specialists. All of them, except one, are women. None of them wear makeup. Our schools are filled with dedicated, hard-working teachers

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without makeup. There is not a dusting of make-up to be seen on the newly appointed all-women line-up of directors at the UK's Royal Shakespeare Company. No-one doubts German Chancellor Angela Merkel's motivation despite her lack of eye-shadow. Even the girls at our local ice-cream counter are not wearing makeup.

Don't get me wrong, I have nothing against cosmetics. I wear makeup most of the time, and I like it. But that's a personal choice, which has no reflection on my motivation or ability to do a job.

In a time when basic human rights are being stripped away and women in power are needed more than ever, I was shocked and dismayed to read something that insists you need to look "pretty" to be taken seriously, and the only way to do that is to wear makeup.

You're taken seriously when you can do the job, and you do it well. You're motivated when you are constantly trying to do better, admit your mistakes and try again. You are professional when you both give, and demand, respect.

It's not how you look that counts. It's what you do.

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Are We There Yet

## REFERENCES

Trunk, P. (2017 September 12). 12 Surprising Work Habits That Make You Look Unprofessional. Retrieved from <https://www.rd.com/advice/work-career/unprofessional-work-habits/>