

# Remodeling Motherhood

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## Mental Map Matching

- Read the real-life quotes/scenarios on the left.
- Can you match them to one or more of the outdated mental maps on the right that they illustrate?

Quote	Outdated Mental Maps
<p>A. Colleague at a career seminar to a mother who asked how to explain the three years she spent caring for family: "Tell them you've been in a coma. That way, you'll have better luck explaining why you haven't been doing anything for the past three years." _____</p> <p>B. Quote in Newsweek about employed mothers: "Unless you are about to starve there is no reason for you to be at work. If you didn't want to raise your children, you shouldn't have had them." _____</p> <p>C. Manager at Wal-Mart to mother who applied for a raise: "Men are here to make a career, and women aren't. Retail is for housewives who just need to earn extra money." _____</p> <p>D. Non-profit manager to mother interviewing for job. "You have to be in the office from 8 am to 6 pm and it would be best if your childcare provider can do things like take the kids to the doctor." _____</p> <p>E. Manager to male state trooper who requested his legal right to family leave: "You can't take it unless your wife is in a coma or dead." _____</p> <p>F. Mother on her part-time job: "I am making the extra money we need to keep the kids in swim lessons and Kung Fu." _____</p> <p>G. Father who was not employed and cares for the kids: "The men in my family look at me like I must be lazy or unwilling to work and the women assume I'm either gay or completely unqualified to be a "mom." _____</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Mothers are responsible for and are naturally better at children and family.</li> <li>2. Fathers are responsible for and are naturally better at employment and earning money.</li> <li>3. Mothers who are employed or pursue personal fulfillment are selfish.</li> <li>4. Mothers who are <u>not</u> employed are dull.</li> <li>5. Caring for family isn't really work, it's just what mothers do.</li> <li>6. Jobs are one-size-fits-all, fifty hours a week, fifty weeks a year, for fifty years of our lives.</li> <li>7. Mothers are financially dependent on fathers; mothers' earnings are pin money, just extra.</li> </ol>

## Your Examples

- Can you think of times that you have heard, seen or experienced any of these outdated mental maps in your own life?

## Answers

A = 4, 5; B = 1, 3, 6, 7; C = 1, 2, 7; D = 6; E = 1, 2, 6; F = 7; G = 1, 2, 5