

Chapter 11 Paper Topic: Gender Roles in Media

As you have learned, **gender roles** are the societal expectations of what a man/woman should be; not necessarily who they are. This paper will focus on how gender roles are displayed in the media, meaning do they follow the “normal” format or would the characters be perceived as abnormal.

For this paper, you get to watch your favorite movie or television show. However, you aren’t necessarily viewing for leisure. Rather, you are attempting to observe the male and female gender roles being played out on screen. You can focus on the main characters, but I would like a profile on at least one male and one female on the program.

An example would be one of my favorite television shows from high school, Buffy the Vampire Slayer. This particular show happens to break the traditional expectations of gender roles: Buffy is a strong willed, independent thinker who happens to physically manhandle supernatural beings day in and day out. Her friend Xander, however, is not exactly the most capable man at fighting and is more of the support system for Buffy and her friends. These would be “abnormal” gender roles according to what society thinks men and women should be.

A different example would be if I examined Varsity Blues. Darcy is a stereotypical cheerleader, dresses provocatively and is dependent on local quarterbacks to get her out of her small town. Mox is the independent thinker who still plays football while standing up against his coach, embracing typical masculinity. These would be “normal” gender roles.

Paper Layout

- Introduction: Summarize what is known about gender roles and what you think about gender roles now and how they will or won’t change
- Paragraph 2: This is where you summarize the program you are analyzing. Give a brief history of the program, the plot, and briefly summarize the characters
- Paragraph 3: This is where you will compare and contrast the gender roles seen in your program and the societal expectations discussed in the book, ppt., and class
- Paragraph 4: This is where you discuss how you feel these gender roles have impacted you and

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how they will impact future generations. Please mention something about androgyny in this section → is it good or bad/is it something important for people to be exposed to?

- Conclusion: Wrap it all up

References

Huffman, K, Dowdell, K., & Sanderson, C.A. (2017). *Psychology in action* (12th ed.). Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons, Inc.

Taylor, E. (2022). *Talking points chapter 11: Gender and human sexuality*. Introduction to Psychology lecture, Montezuma Community Schools, Montezuma, IA.

Citing a movie

Director, Producer. (Year). *Title* [Type]. Place Produced: Who produced it.

Example:

Robbins, B. (Director). (1999). *Varsity blues* [DVD]. United States: MTV Production.

Citing a tv series

Executive Producer. (Date when episode first aired). *Title of episode* [Television broadcast]. Place produced: Who produced it.

Example:

Whedon, J. (Writer/producer). (1997, March 10). *Welcome to the hellmouth*. [Television broadcast]. California: Mutant Enemy Productions.