

10/1/13

Repurposing an Argument – Draft 1

Am I feminine enough?

I've been asking myself this question since the second grade.

At a fellow classmate's 8th birthday party, an "all girl" party at Build-A-Bear, I picked up an all-white bear with a light blue nose. I instantly received negative reaction from my peers. Taunts of "You can't choose *that* bear!" and "Blue is a *boy* color" echoed around the room. But I would not be discouraged. I stood by my decision and got the blue-nosed bear. After all, I thought to myself as my face turned red in embarrassment, the stitching on the nose was really more of a periwinkle color.

I regretted my decision immediately after the party. What would the other kids be saying in school on Monday? Would the boys in my class find out? Will anybody be my friend if I don't act like a girl?

My experience is not unique. According to a 2003 study by Judith Blakemore, children as young as three years old have knowledge of gender norms. Furthermore, for six of the eight surveyed norms that had significant differences, children look at girls who break gender stereotypes more negatively than they view boys who break the same norms.

Outline:

1. My personal story
 - a. How have I been socialized to "be" a woman?
2. Empirical research
 - a. How do children learn about gender norms and stereotypes?
 - b. What happens when gender norms (in children or adults) are violated?
3. Implications of gender stereotypes
 - a. How does gender socialization affect us later in life?
 - i. In the workplace
4. Looking forward
 - a. How are gender stereotypes being broken?
 - i. Ex: Cassidy Lynn Campbell, transgender teen who won homecoming queen
 - b. Are gender norms changing?
 - c. How can things be different in the future?
 - i. Possibly look at cultures outside the United States
 - ii. How is gender socialization changing?
 1. Ex: Goldieblox

Marley Kalt 10/1/13 12:25 PM

Comment [1]: This may work as a title. On Thought Catalog, it's common for writers to ask a question in the title and begin answering it in the text. I like this because it's innovative and is not a style that is not seen in many other places.

Marley Kalt 10/1/13 12:29 PM

Comment [2]: I want to use empirical research, but I was having difficulty trying to create a seamless transition and writing about the research in a non-academic format. Any suggestions for how I can write about research in a more relaxed format?

Marley Kalt 10/1/13 12:31 PM

Comment [3]: I have a lot of questions, which is making it difficult to find a single focus of the piece. Do any questions stick out to you as a reader, that I should focus on exploring in my paper?