

English 101

Essay #1: Revised Draft

Essay Length: 1000-1250 words (3-4 typed pages)

Background

Each of the three essays we have read deal with gender roles in our society. Aaron Devor's essay posits that social expectations associated with masculine and feminine roles are taught and are not innate; Jamaica Kincaid's short story illustrates that point; and Judith Cofer's essay explores how our ethnicity and appearance (including gender) affects how others treat us.

Topic

Using your first draft as a starting point, write an essay in which you explore and analyze how social expectations associated with masculine and feminine roles affect you. Be sure to explain what those expectations are and how they inform or conflict with your expectations of yourself. You will need to use at least one of the assigned readings in your essay.

There are many possible ways to approach this topic:

- You can analyze ways in which your life is governed by social expectations, or ways in which it runs counter to them.
- You can explore difficulties you have had at school, at work, or in your family that were caused by the changed social environment regarding gender roles.
- You can explore how your culture's view of masculinity or femininity conflicts with that of mainstream American culture, and discuss the issues that this conflict raises for you.

Hints

1. Read the topic a couple of times and note what it requires you to do. Complete all the tasks of the assignment.
2. Take time to plan and organize your essay before you begin to write. (Scratch outlines are often quite helpful.)
3. Be sure to start with a clear main idea. (In other words, make sure you can answer this question: "What is the main point I want my readers to understand?")
4. Make sure that you support or illustrate general points with specific examples and vivid details from your own experience and from the text (when appropriate).
5. Allow yourself enough time after writing to go back over your essay, check for errors or omissions, and make any necessary corrections.