

Typcasting Masculinity: Harming Society at Large

Growing up as a boy has never been easy. There are so many codes of cultural context to learn, societal rulebooks to adhere to, and accepted norms to understand. Men cannot be themselves because society expects them to hide emotions. The essay "Bros before Hos: The Guy Code" written by the sociologist Michael Kimmel, describes how young men are influenced from a very young age to adhere to societal ideas of masculinity, which in turn cause them to suppress their emotions and feel pressured to demonstrate aggressiveness and dominance over others. (Kimmel). In addition, the writer Jennifer Siebel Newsom directed the documentary "The Mask You Live In" which clearly explores how "Americans have a narrow definition of masculinity which negatively impacts young boys, men, and society at large" (Newsom). Moreover, "The Guardian" source describes a research performed in 2016 called "As boys, we are told to be brave': men on masculinity and mental health" written by Sarah Marsh, which found links between so-called masculine traits and depression and substance abuse use. The three analyses, documentaries illustrate that the ways boys are being raised to understand masculinity is problematic in many ways, and makes an innocent young boy turn into a violent, dominant, angry, emotionally troubled man.

The film "The Mask You Live In" tackles some of the issues that we encounter as families in the U.S. Society's, and narrow the definition of what it means to be a man is having a host of

Works Cited

"The Mask You Live In". Dir. Jennifer Siebel Newsom. Perf. Jessica Congdon, Jessica Anthony.

You Tube 2013. Film.

Kimmel, Michael. "BROS BEFORE HOS": THE GUY CODE. *English 101 Course Reading Packet*, 2017. 18 April 2017.

March, Sarah. "'As boys, we are told to be brave': men on masculinity and mental health."

Mental Health Opinion US edition. P, 2016. 18 April 2017.

English 101 Essay 4

Rough draft due:

Final draft due:

Jennifer Siebel Newsom's *The Mask You Live In* argues that Americans have a narrow definition of masculinity, which negatively impacts young boys, who ultimately grow up to be men who feel a tremendous pressure to adhere to societal ideals of masculinity.

Michael Kimmel's "Bros Before Hos: The Guy Code" discusses how young men are influenced from a very young age to adhere to societal ideals of masculinity which in turn cause them to suppress their emotions and feel pressured to demonstrate dominance over others.

Both works explore the complexities of masculinity in American society and argue for the need to shift the way young boys are taught to understand what it means to be a man.

Taking one outside source, write a paper that explores the problems that arise when boys are taught such narrow definitions of masculinity. Your outside article can document the prevalence of crime among young men versus young women, suicide and depression rates among gay men, or be an interview that discusses the pressures that men experience in general.

Bear in mind that you may critique these societal pressures in your essay and use evidence from the 3 sources to support this argument. You will only need to research 1 outside source, but feel free to use more if needed.

Length: 5-6 pages

Total points: 100

Successful essays will:

- Assess the issue at large and incorporate all 3 sources into the body paragraphs.
- Draw connections among the 3 sources.
- Have a clear, concise thesis statement.
- Adhere to MLA format.
- Be free of grammatical and spelling errors.
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