

4. Try to define the terms *masculine* and *feminine*. Include library research on the origins of the words or research their changing implications over the years. Develop your own definition for each word.
5. Select a representative film genre—horror, romance, action, adventure, fantasy, mystery. Analyze gender roles within that particular genre. Locate sources that support your analysis. Then write an essay to explain how the films portray males and females.

(*Cultural Attractions/Cultural Distractions: Critical Literacy in Contemporary Contexts*, by Libby Allison and Kristine Blair. (0137378181, Prentice Hall, 2000))

6. Write an essay in which you discuss how the clothing that men and women wear reflects society's views, expectations, and judgments of them. Support your ideas with evidence found in databases. In thinking about this topic, consider the messages conveyed by the clothing men and women wear.

(*Across Cultures*, 8th edition, by Sheena Gillespie and Robert Becker. (0205780377, Longman: 2010))

7. Various traditions are used to confine women, to control them in some ways (ex., foot binding). Select such a tradition and discuss the reasons for the tradition and the effects it has or had on both men and women.

(*Across Cultures*, 8th edition, by Sheena Gillespie and Robert Becker. (0205780377, Longman: 2010))

8. Write an essay explaining how damaging it is for a man not to fit the social stereotype for what is expected of a male in terms of appearance and behavior (ex., a man who is not interested in playing and/or watching sports). Use sources to support your idea.
9. How have society's definitions of masculinity and femininity changed over time? Choose one of the two terms and research its shifting definitions over the past two hundred years. What did society expect of a man or a woman in 1800? In 1900? In the early 2000s? What is considered masculine or feminine? Remember that no single reference source will provide you with the answers you need. You may need to infer the definitions from the roles that society forces on men and women and the images that represent those roles. Be sure to acknowledge your sources.
10. How are the differences between men's and women's communication strategies related to social or biological norms? What values of the society do these differing approaches reveal? Research the communication strategies of men and women and write an essay explaining the differences.
11. Statistically, men tend to hold more positions of power and wealth than women do. Many women feel that simply being born male automatically confers status and power, or at the very least, makes life easier. This cultural assumption, however, may apply to only a very small segment of the male population. Write an essay discussing the effects of this stereotype on men.

12. Write an essay explaining what it means to be male in today's society. Consider how men factor into current social, intellectual, political, economic, and religious arenas. Consider the opportunities that are available—or not available—to men.
13. What does it mean to be a wife in another culture? Choose at least two other cultures and research those societies' expectations of a wife. Try to find cultures that show significant differences. Remember that interviews might be a useful source of information—even email interviews with wives in other cultures. Using your research, write an essay offering a comparative definition of wife. Assume that your audience is American. Be certain to document your sources, including any interviews or email conversations.

(The Prentice Hall Reader, 6th edition, by George Miller. (0130225630, Prentice Hall: 2001))