Dissecting Gender

Comprehensive Project

Project Objective:

Dissect the biological and environmental factors that influence gender identity

Introduction

Women are nurturing, whereas men are assertive. Women are more likely to be nurses than men, while engineers are more likely to be men than women. Women make 76-cents to every dollar that a man makes. There is a lot of evidence that people use to illustrate that men and women are different and most often these are attributed to inherent causes, ultimately being blamed on that darned Y chromosome that is carried by males, but is absent from females. Sure men and women are genetically different but can our chromosomes be the only explanation or is it possible that these *perceived* gender differences are actually a byproduct of the cultural expectations of men and women? This project explores the concept of gender and gender identity and the biological and environmental factors that shape and influence it.

Instructions

Student will discuss gender in their group discussion forum however here are the activities that students should do first:

- Take a gender test called Sex.I.D. and find out if you are more male or female!
- Review Module C Objectives #13 – 16
- Read the Psychology Today article the New Sex Scorecard
- Read this article about sex differences, Not so fast!
- Read the tragic story of David Reimer

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Part 1 Due Date: by 11:59pm Friday in Week 13

After completing these activities students should reflect on the evidence that gender is heredity (nature) and environmental (nurture). Students should then compose an original message in their group discussion forum and answer the following questions:

1. Does this "gender test" offer evidence that gender is inborn or learned?
2. Is there evidence that our gender is influenced by biological factors?
3. Is there evidence that our gender is influenced by environmental factors?
4. Do you believe that gender is innate or learned? Explain your answer.
5. What is the most interesting thing that you learned about gender in this project?

Part 2 Due Date: by 11:59m Sunday in Week 13

Students should discuss the nature-nurture of gender in their group discussion forum with each other. Respond to the posts of at least one of your classmates and react to their analysis. Do you agree or disagree? Be sure to demonstrate what you've learned rather than just respond with "I think" or "I agree" statements. Students will be scored on their demonstrated knowledge and engagement. The more involved and analytical you are, the higher your score!

Grading Rubric

This project is worth up to 50 points and students earn points based on their individual contributions and engagement with their group discussion. Each student will be evaluated using the questions below.

- Did the student post an original message on-time that clearly answers all of the questions?
- Did the student accurately discuss the biological factors?
- Did the student accurately discuss the environmental factors?
- Did the student contribute to the learning process by applying what was learned?
- Was the student actively engaged with their peers in the discussion?

Each of these questions will be scored using a 10-point Likert scale:

0.....1.....2.....3.....4.....5.....6.....7.....8.....9.....10
Not at all Minimal Average Good Very Good