

Essay 3- make an argument about gender concept.

Whether we are aware or not, gender plays a key role in our everyday lives. Those who identify as female are often subjected to mistreatment solely based on the gender concept. Author Simone de Beauvoir argues that women have always been the “other” in society while men are considered essential and linked to the world. As a result, women have faced many challenges and are held to high beauty standards, as described in “The Beauty Myth” by Naomi Wolf. Both articles demonstrate the changing role of women in society and the systematic oppression caused by the concept of gender.

Though the roles of women have changed, the female gender has been treated subordinately throughout history. Beauvoir states that there is no specific moment when women became the “other” as it has always been this way. Beauvoir argues that this is because unlike other minorities, women do not have their own culture, history, or religion that is not tied to men. Because of this, women were given few opportunities and were often patronized. This is demonstrated in Charlotte Gilman’s “The Yellow Wallpaper” where the narrator is considered “hysterical” in reaction to her mental health issues and is prohibited from writing or working. Though women have made advancements in society, this ideology has translated into the beauty standards which weigh on women today. The beauty myth, as described by Wolf, emphasizes the importance of a women’s appearance as opposed to character and strengths. The beauty myth is designed to slow the legal advancements of women by forcing them to compete against one another and conform to the expectations of men. These three articles provide examples of the changing roles and subsequently changing oppressions that women are subjected to on the base of gender.

As women make advancements in society, new oppositions are created. Though these oppositions take many forms, it is undeniable that they are rooted in the longstanding belief that women are the “other” and are therefore subordinate. By changing our perspectives, we can counteract these biases and create a more inclusive and equal society.