Abhishek Prajapati

Expository Writing QK

Essay 4 Rough Draft

Dr. Heba

11/5/15

Women’s identity

Who am I? What do I want? The processes by which women answer these questions are critical to the formation of their identity. The old society had an immense impact on the way that women think, feel and act in the society. In the sense, the society portrayed a set of rules that are and are not socially acceptable to each culture. Societies were very strict about women’s sexual life and their identity as a whole. Women were not allowed to have sex until after they get married. However, in today’s young and educated women appear to have very different life style. Leslie Bell illustrates in her article, “Selections from Hard to Get,” that women today have very different sexual and emotional opportunities to those of women in previous ears. Bell is interviews different young educated women in their late twenties about their sexual lives, on how they struggle to cope with considerable challenges of casual sex or “hooking up”, and short term relationships with men who are frequently exploitative. She talks about how one wrong decision can change a women’s life in many ways, such as in academic front or financial front. Similarly, Jane Twenge discusses about the new generation that is all about “self” in her article “An Army of One.” She illustrates the gap between the Baby Boomers parents and their Generation Me children. This translates into differences in opinion and results in individualism. The new generation women are more about following their dreams and felling good about their selves, while Baby Boomers were all about self-fulfillment and followed the basic philosophy of life. The new generation followed their dreams and did things that made them happy. Daniel Gilbert talks about the unending myths that surrounds the youth’s happiness in his article “Immune to Reality.” Gilbert argues, how an individual’s mind affects their feelings based on their surrounding, and how they are able to think, imagine, and experience the future before it happens. Women’s role has been changed dramatically from what it was few decades ago. Thanks to women empowerment in today’s society, women are able to live their lives happily. They are able to create their own identity without having to look up to somebody. In today’s society, media plays a strong role in shaping women’s identity. Along with media, the decisions that women make, good or bad, also has a huge impact on women’s identity.

The media has an immense impact on the way the people think, feel and act in the society. The media has changed the traditional view of a women as housewife or low-status worker. In today’s advanced world, women are influenced by magazines that shows them how to dress, movies and televisions that shows women how to act and advertisements that shows women what to buy. Media creates these negative stereotypes for women that contributes to how society views women and how women view themselves. And when it comes to the sex, Bell asserts that “women’s peers, television shows such as Sex and the City and movies seem to encourage sexual experimentations. And they many find advice about sexual position to try in Glamour or Cosmopolitan magazines” (27). Women are often featured in media images wearing extremely revealing clothing. Young women view these images regularly and begin to imitate them because they feel these are the acceptable cultural norms today. The media influences the way women dress, what length they should grow their hair, or how much should they weight to look well. This does make women look beautiful than before, however, the media represents women as sexual objects in the society in which males can dominate. This changes how the society, especially men, view young women. “Women do not realize that their views are changing because they are unaware of the process that [the media] changes them” (Gilbert 132). Women do not realize their views are changing because they are liking what they are seeing or doing. Bell asserts that Alicia who was a good girl but still play with sexuality with men to whom she was not close. She liked it that she is beautiful and attractive and men are trying to flirt with her. She also enjoyed flirting with the men she did not know that well. Similarly, Claudia, a twenty-eight researcher, also enjoyed flirting and being touched by men she found attractive. The media has a strong impact on how women picture themselves, and also help them accomplish what they want to be. However, media plays a huge role in influencing women’s identity, mostly in a negative way, by portraying images in magazines and advertisements about how or what a woman should wear or do to look beautiful. Regardless of the bad influence of media, the decisions that an individual makes also shape their identity.

In addition to media’s influences, the decision that women make on certain situations also shapes their identity accordingly. Everyone makes decisions everyday that changes their life in some way, regardless of it’s a good decision or a bad decision. Women today make decisions that can make them look more beautiful or make them socially accepted. Bell asserts, “For many women, the twenties are no longer a time principally devoted to either partnership or children. They have more freedom - to make their own decisions - than women a few generations ago” (26). In other words, bell is saying that women today do not have to follow the old traditions, where they become housewives in their twenties, instead they have the ability to decide what to do with their life and career. Which is a decision that many women today make that can influence or change their identity. When women look at a magazine or a movie and want to be that person in the magazine or movie, they make a decision to change their identity. Claudia, who was raised to be a good girl who would marry her first boyfriend by her parents, made a decision to be with different guys every now and then. As a result, she felt shame and feared that society might label her a “ho” for making such choices. Similarly, Alicia, who never dated until college and only focused on her studies, failed at relationship because she gave up her way of life that actually made her successful. Twenge asserts that “magazines, television shows, and books all emphasize the importance of high self-esteem for youths, usually promoting feelings that are actually lot closer to narcissism” (494). When women make decisions that they want to look like they person from magazine or a TV show, they move close to narcissism because after accomplishing the task they were seeking, looking like a person from a magazine, they think they are better than everyone else, and love their selves little bit too much, which Twenge says leads to narcissism. This can have a major impact on women’s identity because too much self-esteem can change how society’s view them. It can also make women self-fish, which can affect their identity. However, not all decisions influence negative identity, there are also some good decisions that women make that can influence their identity in a good way such as making a decision to get an education.

Making a decision to get an education can prepare confident women with positive self-identity.