

## AP Psychology

After reading an article, watching a video, and reading the textbook content on gender roles, students were given this following assignment.

CSI Goal 1: *All students will improve their writing skills; they will be able to relate, integrate, and synthesize within content areas.*

*Strategies:*

*1) Summary Writing (Marzano/AVID)*



### Writing: Competition Between Genders

**25 points**

To practice writing critically, please answer the following essay question. The essay should have several paragraphs and incorporate the bullet points in your answer.

There has been competition between genders since they have existed. Please apply your critical thinking skills and, by providing examples, explain why this competition exists. Please include, in your essay, how the bullet points below affect the competition.

- Gender roles
- Culture
- Gender-typed
- Individualism versus collectivism

Please submit the finished essay to your teacher.

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AP Psychology  
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### Competition between Genders

Throughout our history as humans, competition has been an underlying theme in almost every society. This competition is most evident between genders. In history classes, whenever students learn about a civilization, they study the different roles that men and women played. More often than not, in

each of these civilizations, women were treated inferior to men. This trend has carried on to our current age, where many people still believe that women should be house-wives and men should be bread-winners. This gender-typing and competition between the sexes is not only caused by the gender roles forged by our ancestors; the competition between genders is also affected by culture and individualism.

Genetically, a woman's body is formed in preparation for birthing a child. Her hips are wider than a man's; she carries more fat than a man; she expresses emotions more freely than a man; and she hits puberty sooner than a man. As a result, women are held to different physical and emotional standards than men. Genetically, men were built to protect, to collect food, and to provide for their families. They have an immediate advantage on women as being stronger and taller. With an increased amount of testosterone, men have adapted into a role of being the more physically advanced gender and therefore, are recognized as the more superior gender. Over time, these differences between body types have created the gender roles that females and males play. It's been imbedded in our society that since women are physically inferior, men should be the true leaders. While women stay home to care for domestic duties, men are free to do as they please. Competition arises when women try to prove that they should be treated as equals, or that men are the inferior gender. This plight for equality was extremely evident especially during the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when women became more confident in challenging the norms.

Our culture has formed around gender roles. We raise our boys to embrace their masculinity, to be strong, to be athletic, to be a leader, to be brave. We raise our girls to embrace their femininity, to be gentle, to be helpful, to be mature, and to be respectful. Often it is frowned upon if a girl starts to exhibit masculine behaviors, and vice versa. Girls stay close to their mothers in the house when chores are to be done. Boys, on the other hand, venture outside with their fathers to do more physical tasks. Even at birth, the different genders receive very different gifts. A boy may get a toy truck, while a girl may get a doll. These small differences have created a greater gap between genders, and therefore competition.

One of the major differences between females and males is the preference of individualism versus collectivism. Females tend to prefer collectivism. The nurturing nature of women makes them more sociable, relatable, and caring of others. They enjoy being in the presence of others and take pleasure in communication and relationships. Men are often typed as being short-winded. They don't enjoy talking on the phone for hours or spending the majority of their days chatting on Facebook. Since men are pressured to succeed so much, they tend to be more self-reliant and independent in their endeavors. By focusing on other people, rather than personal success, women often have become second to men in competition.

All in all, competition between males and females is caused by many factors: genetics, gender roles and types, culture, and individualism. Although not as drastic in all societies, the differences between genders are evident. It's something that all societies at some point have shared in common.