English 79:
Preparatory English

Mastery Essay Information

Booklet

Spring 2013
The article by Richard Paloma entitled “Rich in Thought: Not every Olympian Gets a Medal” originally appeared in the Oakdale Leader, and will be the basis of the topic for the Spring 2013 Mastery Essay (see pages two and three.) Before coming to write your Mastery Essay, you may read, annotate, and discuss the article by yourself, with others, and in your English class. Your teacher may want to include other readings or materials on this topic to discuss as well. You are strongly encouraged to bring your annotated article with you on the date you write your Mastery Essay. This will be solely your responsibility, not the responsibility of your teacher.

The actual questions to be used on the Mastery Essay will not be announced before the writing day. On the day of the Mastery Essay, you will be given two questions from which to choose. You will not be expected to summarize the essay or to extract text from the essay, but being able to do this may help you to answer the essay question more thoroughly.

The Directions for your Mastery Essay will look something like this:

On the line in the upper right hand corner, insert the three course code digits that your instructor gives you. If English is your second language, check the line marked ESL. Put your Delta student identification number on the face page and the upper right hand corners of each lined page. In the space provided, put an X next to the question that you have chosen to answer (either #1 or #2).

You will have ninety minutes in which to plan, write, and proofread an essay in response to the following topic. Take some time to make a plan of what you want to say before you start writing. Leave some time at the end of the period to proofread. Your essay should introduce the subject and answer the question with specifics and examples.

You may cross out and add information as necessary. Although what you say is more important than how much you say, you will want to write a complete essay rather than a few short paragraphs. Use ink, and write as legibly as possible.

Following these directions will be two essay prompts from which to choose.
Rich in Thought: Not every Olympian Gets a Medal

By Richard Paloma

With the closing of the London Olympics earlier this month, I was impressed with the United States team’s 104 medal count leading the way over other countries, with some competitors even receiving multiple medals. While I stress that making the US Olympic team is quite an honor in itself, I also accept that not all of the competing 539 US athletes received a medal – and rightfully so since the games are a highly competitive event. However, in an age where many believe today’s youth need to boost self-esteem and that “competition” is a bad thing, I find it disappointing that the increasingly self-congratulatory society is insisting on the “everyone gets a trophy” custom for many youth sports leagues.

When I was younger and played sports, we kept score and not everybody got a trophy at the end of the season. Members of the first, second and third place teams got trophies that tapered in size and bling and even some MVP awards were given out. We were awarded for our “accomplishments” and not just our “participation” in the league.

Where do you get your competitive drive if you come in 11th in a 12-team league and still get a trophy? What’s the value of a trophy if everyone got one? The kids of the “everyone’s-a-winner” leagues are getting trophies not for winning championships but for simply participating in the league. Why would a child push himself later in life to be the best if all he knows is that he’ll receive the same reward for simply being a participant? What has been created is an age where many of today’s youth suffer from a sense of self-importance and entitlement.

Even in my prior life as a police supervisor, I saw a new generation of employees that seemed to expect to be rewarded or acknowledged for just being present during an incident despite their performance or contributions to a situation.

These days the warm and fuzzies start early in a kid’s life. In addition to trophymania, it seems more and more, every kindergarten, elementary, and middle school now has some sort of “commencement” ceremony all with caps, gowns, and awards to be made to feel “special” just for moving along to the next grade. Even in my old stomping grounds of Stockton, where accountability and achievement now takes a back seat to concerns with self-esteem, students didn’t have to actually graduate and pass the exit exam to participate in their high school graduation ceremony.

Newsflash: Self-esteem will be truly attained in only one way – the way people accomplished it until decided otherwise years ago – by earning it. We appear to be surrounded by excellence when we look in parking lots and kids’ bedrooms. “My Child is a Special Student” bumper stickers adorn minivans and SUVs and participation trophies and ribbons line walls.
Our culture is developing a built-in notion that self-esteem is a function of praise, outside recognition, and staying “positive.” Actually, that’s wrong. Self-esteem is a function of the self-realization of an enthusiastic struggle to attain a goal, an important part of which is making mistakes, and rising from those mistakes to accomplish an objective. Some of the most positive, admirable, and happiest people I know are those that have risen like a Phoenix from the ashes of defeat. The realists.

Some “experts” believe that it is the parents’ (and teachers’) job to build a “positive self-image” and saying something negative like “no” and “can’t” is to be shunned. This can actually be hampering by cutting the kid off from vital information that will lead to good decisions. A much better goal is an accurate self-image. With accuracy as a goal, we keep our eye on the right ball. Mistakes are tools for learning – not indicators of poor ability. Defeat and not always winning is a part of life.

Pursuit of goals that are central to one’s needs, values, and interests builds self-confidence and makes one successful; not never-ending praise of trivial acts.

I’m not going to get all Vince Lombardi with “Winning isn’t everything, it’s the only thing” or Dale Earnhardt’s “Second place is just the first place loser,” but for the real life of adulthood, we should teach kids to be mentally tough, to learn that somebody wins and somebody loses, to take criticism, to experience failure and then get back up to recover. Going after something with a will and a willingness to persevere through setbacks and learning along the way produces positive results, self-esteem, and maybe even an Olympic medal.
Scoring and Evaluation

Scoring

Two English 79 Instructors other than your own will read your essay and assign it a score between one and three; scores of two and three are passing (see “English 79 Scoring Guide” page 7). If the two instructors disagree about whether your essay should pass, a third instructor will read your essay and decide whether it passes or fails.

The instructors will be paying special attention to the following:

1. Thesis responding accurately to the assigned task.
2. Structured and organized development of the subject.
3. Sufficient specific information to illustrate and/or support the thesis.

Dictionaries will be allowed.

Evaluation

Because English 79 is a competency-based course, the course grade will reflect not only the work a student has completed throughout the semester but also the skill level the student has achieved by the end of the semester. Your teacher will determine the final course grade on the basis of the quality of the coursework and the final examination (worth 60%) and the Mastery Essay (worth 40% “pass” or 40% “fail”).
Answering Essay Questions
and Taking Essay Examinations

Essay examinations are one of the practical but demanding applications of the basic principles of good composition under a rigid time limit. Additionally, essay questions test your thinking and writing ability, including your knowledge of Standard Written English.

Answering Essay Questions

1. **Read through the examination questions carefully and thoughtfully before doing any writing.** Try to decide exactly what the questions call for and what they do not call for. Choose the question which is easier for you to write about or the question for which you will have the most to say. Don't spend too much time deciding upon which question to answer.

2. **Organize and plan your answer before writing.** In a timed writing assignment, you will probably not have time to write several drafts or even two drafts. Therefore, it is important that you decide upon the important ideas you think should be covered before you begin to write. Jot down details for yourself if this helps. Writing down your thesis and your topic sentences is a good way to make a brief organizational plan for your essay.

3. **Write in specific, concrete, and precise terms.** Essay questions are usually phrased in fairly general terms, but you want to answer the question with examples, specifics, and details. Be sure each body paragraph is thoroughly developed.

4. **Proofread your essay carefully before handing it in.** Make sure you have answered the question thoroughly. Finally, check punctuation and spelling. Make sure you haven't left out any important words.

5. **If you extract a quote from the professional essay from which the prompt has been drawn, be sure that you put quotes around any material that you extract verbatim.** Also, be sure to refer to the author of the essay and the essay title. You must give credit where credit is due. Doing otherwise is known as plagiarism.
The following is a list of words that may appear in the prompt for the Mastery Essay:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analyze</td>
<td>Separate the main ideas in order to examine them in detail.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compare</td>
<td>Look for qualities or characteristics that resemble each other. Emphasize similarities.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contrast</td>
<td>Stress the dissimilarities, differences, or unlikeness of things.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Define</td>
<td>Give concise, clear, and authoritative meanings. Don't give details, but make sure to give the limits of the definition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Describe</td>
<td>Recount, characterize, sketch, or relate in sequence or story form.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discuss</td>
<td>Examine, analyze carefully, and give reasons and details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluate</td>
<td>Carefully appraise the problem, citing both advantages and limitations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Explain or Show How</td>
<td>Clarify and interpret the material you present. Give specific reasons.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Identify</td>
<td>Briefly state dates, people, places or events which set this fact or figure apart or make it outstanding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illustrate</td>
<td>Use one or more concrete examples to explain.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interpret</td>
<td>Translate, give examples of, or comment on, a subject, giving your judgment about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justify</td>
<td>Prove or give reasons for decisions or conclusions, trying to be convincing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relate</td>
<td>Show how things are related to or connected with each other or how one causes another, correlates with another, or is like another.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review</td>
<td>Examine a subject critically, analyzing and commenting on the important statements to be made about it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State</td>
<td>Present the main point in a brief, clear sequence, usually omitting details.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summarize</td>
<td>Give the main points in condensed form, like the summary of a chapter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
English 79 Scoring Guide

Score of 3 DISTINGUISHED:
In addition to meeting the PASSING criteria, a distinguished essay displays sentence variety, exceptional vocabulary, and an extended discussion of the topic. It is generally free of major grammatical errors, though it may have a few minor errors.

Score of 2 PASSING
A passing essay:
1. Addresses the writing task (Answers the topic question in the thesis sentence or in the totality of the essay).
2. Demonstrates adequate organization: clear thesis, unified paragraphs, obvious plan of development (introduction, body, conclusion), stated or implied topic sentences.
3. Contains an extended example, multiple short examples, logical reasons, or some combination of these in body paragraphs to support the thesis.
4. Demonstrates adequate sentence construction, word usage, and grammar. It contains few sentence-level errors (comma splices, fragments, run-on sentences, predication errors) and few verb form errors. It may accumulate several minor errors, but not to the extent that it distracts the reader.

Score of 1 FAILING:
If an essay fails to meet minimum competency in any of the four areas listed in PASSING, it should fail.
A third reader reads splits of 1-2. Splits of 2-3 are given a score of 2.5
Options for English 79 Student

English 79 students who fail the Mastery Essay have three options for achieving Level III.

Option 1: Repeat English 79. Students who earn a “D” or “F” in a course may repeat that course. The new grade will replace the old grade in the students’ overall GPA, but the old grade will remain on the students’ transcript. (Note: Students’ financial aid packages may be affected by their choosing to repeat a course in which they have previously earned a “D” or “F.”)

Option 2: Retake Assessment Test, challenging Level II. Students who do not earn a “C” or better in English 79 may challenge Level II by going to the Assessment Center, DeRicco Student Services Building, Room 110, and requesting a Level II Composition Retake. Students will be given the COMPASS test again (this is the assessment test taken upon entering the college). The COMPASS test may be retaken 30 days after the first time, and once a year thereafter. To reach Composition Level III, students must retake both the reading skills test and writing skills test. Reaching Level III does not alter the students’ standing or change the grade in their English 79 class, but should they pass the retake, they become eligible to enroll English 1A.

Option 3: File a portfolio. With the instructor's endorsement only, a student may file a portfolio in lieu of a passing score on the Mastery Essay. See the portfolio guidelines for information on this process.
English 79 Mastery Essay:  
Portfolio Criteria

Function
The portfolio process gives instructors the opportunity to endorse the work of students who deserve a second assessment of their writing skills. These are usually students who have done well in class and have had excellent attendance, although they failed the Mastery. The portfolio process should be made available only to those students who meet the criteria below. It is not intended to be an alternative vehicle for the placement of borderline students. **Students cannot submit portfolios without their instructor’s endorsement; it is entirely the instructor’s decision whether or not to file a portfolio.**

Format

1. The portfolio must include two complete on-demand [in class] essays written prior to the Mastery Essay. **The prompts must be included.** The student’s failing Mastery Essay must be included as well.

2. The essays should demonstrate mastery of analytical and/or expository prose. They should not be purely descriptive or narrative.

3. Each essay must demonstrate minimum competence in writing as delineated on the “English 79 Scoring Guide” by a score of 2 or 3.

4. The student must write a brief letter (two or three paragraphs) to the Portfolio Committee telling why his or her portfolio is deserving of a passing score. This letter should be written in class.

Portfolio submissions should be clearly identified by:  
Instructor Name and Course Code Number,  
Student Name and Delta Identification Number

Portfolios must be submitted to the English 79 Administrator one week from the Reading Day.
Sequence of English Composition Courses
at Delta College

Placement in English composition courses is determined by appropriate test scores or course prerequisites.

Level I

English 70
English 85 (ESL)
English 87

Level II

English 79

Level III

English 1A
Level I Writing Programs

English 70 and
English 85 (ESL)

English 87

English 70 and 85 are parallel basic writing courses, designed to build reading comprehension as a context for writing in personal, college, and work settings. Each student compiles a portfolio to display examples of her/his writing, including a summary of a short article; a short essay with revision; a letter for the real world; and an in-class timed writing responding to a selection from The Final Draft student magazine.

Working in collaboration, English 70 and English 85 faculty evaluate student portfolios to gauge readiness for English 87 or English 79. Students may earn Credit grades with recommendation to English 79 or to English 87.

English 87 is an intermediate writing course, specifically designed to prepare basic writers for English 79. Each student practices writing short essays, demonstrating growth of organization and development skills, in addition to strengthening sentence level skills.
The English 79 Program
Level II

Program History

English 79 is a pivotal composition course in the sequence of writing classes at Delta College. In 1986, Delta College recognized that many of its “college-level” students enrolling in English 1A, the freshman composition transfer course, were in fact not prepared to achieve success with college-level writing tasks. As a result of this recognition, the English faculty designed English 79, a preparatory composition class whose instruction bridged the gap between level 1 writing courses (English 70, 85, and 87) and college-level composition courses (English 1A, English 1B and English 1D). Between 800 and 1,000 students complete English 79 each semester, giving it one of the largest enrollments in the English program at Delta College.

Program Philosophy

There is a remarkable consensus among English 79 instructors about the purpose and success of the course. Designed as a developmental course, English 79 is premised on the notion that students from widely varying backgrounds with a diverse range of literacy skills can master a basic essay format and the rules of Standard Written English. Most instructors in the English 79 program structure their courses on the revision model: prewriting, rough draft review, editing, rewriting, and final reading. The curriculum includes instruction in the grammar, syntax, and punctuation rules of Standard Written English; repeated practice with the writing process; the reading and analysis of model essays; and practice with “on-demand” essays.

The English 79 Mastery Essay

During the fifteenth week of the semester, all students enrolled in this course undertake a mastery essay that determines whether or not they advance to Level III and become eligible for English 1A. This essay is expository in nature, and students are asked to compose an essay on a topic generated from an essay they have read beforehand. Students write the mastery essay during a ninety-minute class period. The essays are marked with class code and student identification number, and the English 79 faculty holistically score them one week after the administration. The scoring process is a blind one, with discrepancies (pass/fail disagreements in the awarded scores) resolved by an experienced third reader. Students must pass the mastery essay in order to be eligible for English 1A, and the score on the mastery essay also contributes to 40% of their course grade.
The English 1A Program  
Level III  

Program History

English 1A is a college-level composition class that is a requirement for graduation from all four-year degree programs in the UC and CSU systems. Students who score Level III on the assessment-placement test at Delta are eligible to take English 1A, although they may take a lower level composition class if they wish. The course presupposes that students have mastered the basic rules of Standard Written English as they apply to syntax, grammar, and punctuation and are ready to experiment with style and structure in order to fulfill a particular purpose and/or accommodate a specific audience.

Program Philosophy

Instructors in the English Department are in agreement as to the writing standards that English 1A students must meet, but they may choose to present the material in different modes. Some instructors prefer to teach to the rhetorical pattern of the essay, others prefer material that is thematically linked, and yet others may combine the two methods. Most instructors use some form of the revision model that emphasizes prewriting, writing, revision, and peer reaction. Textbooks for the course range from those that focus solely on the essay format to those that include poetry and short story selections thematically related to the essays. Close reading of the literature for an understanding of structure, tone, and authorial purpose as well as for content is an integral part of the course.
Seven Sample Student Essays

The following seven student essays (pages 19 - 34), which follow Supreet Mann’s “Working Mothers,” essay were written in response to the Mastery Prompts on page 15. The writers had read and discussed Mann’s essay before they wrote their Mastery Essay. However, they had not seen the topic beforehand, and they had only 90 minutes to write their essay in class. The sample essays have been word-processed; however, nothing else has been changed.

Sample essays 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were written in response to topic #1 on page 18. Sample essays 6 and 7 were written in response to topic #2 on page 18.

Refer back to page 7 of this booklet to see what the readers will be looking for in a passing essay. If you were a reader, what score would you give each of these essays? Why? Read these essays and discuss the scores with your teacher.
Working Mothers Are Benefiting The Family

by Supreet Mann

The basic unit of every society is the family. Families make up the fabric of every community and should be valued for the important role they hold in keeping people together. The heads of each familial unit have a duty, a duty that I feel is unique to each family and can change over time. Traditionally, the father has been the breadwinner—working several days a week to provide for his family financially. The mother has traditionally been the homemaker—taking care of the children and the house. In recent years, our society has seen a rather dramatic shift in the expectations of both the father and mother. We now expect the father to play a more active role in the lives of his children and in the running of the household. We also expect the mother to be more active outside of the home, often by working. There has been a division amongst people as to the benefits and consequences of having women work outside of the home. While some believe that working women are harming the family, I feel that working women are benefiting their families and teaching their children valuable life lessons.

Working parents and nonworking parents alike have a common goal in mind for their family: that their children are well taken care of and provided with everything that they might need. In “Working Mothers are Harming the Family,” Richard Lowry argues that when given the choice, most mothers would choose to stay home with their children. I disagree with Lowry. In today’s competitive society, in order for a family to do well, it is often necessary for both parents to work. Parents work because of the undeniable financial benefits that come with having both parents work. Two-parent families in which both parents work make an average of $26,000 more than families in which only one parent works (Karaim). I have seen many examples of this in my own life. My family and many of my relatives live in households in which both parents work. For my family, having my mother work has had enormous financial benefits. My father is self-employed and we are dependent on my mother’s job for our health and dental insurance, without which life would be much more difficult for us. Having the second income also enabled my family to afford a nice home in a safe part of town, and allowed for my parents to send me to good schools. My parents both work because they believe that it is in their children’s best interest. Like other working parents, they are simply doing what they believe is right for their children.

Working parents often set a good work ethic for their children, helping to make them productive members of society. For instance, in “Working Mothers are Benefiting the Family,” Reed Karaim states that working mothers set an example for their children by showing a “willingness to work” and the positive outcomes of working: namely a sense of independence, pride, and fulfillment. Karaim also believes that working mothers help to break the stereotype of women being in the home, concerned with nothing more than their physical appearance. Rather, they are successful independent women who value and use their intelligence as much as possible. I agree with Karaim and believe that working mothers set an example for their children to live life to its full potential.
My mother has always encouraged me to be active in various aspects of my life. She believes that all children need to be provided with the opportunity to do anything and everything that they may want. My mother developed this sense of independence because she has been working for several years. She knows well how fulfilling a sense of accomplishment can be. She has always encouraged her daughters to work and play sports, roles that some would argue are for “boys only.” By encouraging me in this way, my mother has gifted me with a strong will. I know that I am no less than any man and can be just as successful, if not more so, than my male counterpart. Children from families in which both parents work are very lucky because they receive a more dynamic view of the importance of working and the happiness it can bring to a person’s life.

Despite some of the obvious benefits of having both parents work, there are several common arguments against having mothers work. As Michael Noer states in “Don’t Marry Career Women,” relationships in which both members work have a higher divorce rate, a higher likelihood of cheating, and the couple is less likely to have children. I do not believe that this is a valid argument against working mothers. A relationship with problems like Noer describes does not result directly from having both member work; rather they are deep-seated problems that build over a long period of time. It is not fair to blame one member of the relationship for a problem that occurs between both members. And while I am sure that there are some couples who cannot handle having both members work, there are also many couples who work full-time and are able to maintain a loving healthy relationship. In “Don’t Marry a Lazy Man,” Elizabeth Corcoran talks about how marriage is a two-way street, and both members have a responsibility to maintain their relationship. She also gives a personal example by saying that she and her husband have been able to maintain their relationship despite both working full-time jobs. My own parents have been married for twenty-two years, nineteen of which both my mother and father have worked. I am happy to say that they still maintain a happy and healthy relationship.

Another common argument against having both parents work is that the children end up in daycare centers. I do not feel that a daycare center harms a child in any way; rather I feel that the children learn how to be social with children their own age. Lowry argue that being away from the mother results in more “aggressive and defiant” children, as reported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. And while there are some daycare centers where children are neglected and not treated well, it is always the parents’ responsibility to find the best daycare center they can afford. When placed in a good daycare, children learn how to interact with other kids their age. Furthermore, children in daycare are provided with many resources that they often do not have at home. It is a parent’s responsibility to make sure that children are being adequately cared for. I was placed in a very good daycare center at a young age and believe that it was much more beneficial than harmful. Coming from a family in which English was not the primary language, I lacked communication skills and self-confidence. In a daycare center at a young age, I learned many of the skills necessary to thrive both in school and with my peers. Daycare gave me a head start in school and helped me learn how to communicate with children my own age.
The arguments for and against working mothers are valid in many ways. However, I feel that mothers who work bring more to their families and their relationships than mothers who stay at home. In both cases mothers are doing only what they feel is best for themselves and their families, but when talking about the overall benefits, working mothers bring a lot to the family. Not only do they bring an extra income to the family but they help to instill in their children a good work ethic. Working mothers are forced to go against the long held stereotype of the typical family to do what is best for their family in today’s times. Mothers should never be discriminated against for choosing to enter the workforce. Rather, they should be held in high esteem for making a positive contribution to the community.
The Topic

Choose one. Circle the number of the topic you have chosen to write about on the FIRST page.

Essay Topic #1

In “Working Mothers are Benefiting the Family,” Supreet Mann writes, “Working mothers are forced to go against the long held stereotype of the typical family to do what is best for their families in today’s times.” The “long held stereotype of the typical family” is, of course, a father who works and a mother who stays at home.

In a complete essay, using reasons and examples to support your stand, explain your opinion of gender specific roles (stereotypes of men’s work and women’s work) in today’s United States. Are men and women in the United States still expected to conform to gender specific roles, or do we now live in a liberated society that is generally free of the idea of “men’s jobs” and “women’s jobs?”

Essay Topic #2

Whether or not you believe that working mothers benefit the family, it is likely that working mothers spend less time with their children than stay-at-home mothers. While some people would argue that the quality of time spent with children is more important than the quantity of time spent with children, critics would argue that it is difficult for a tired working mother to give her children her full attention.

In a complete essay, using reasons and examples to support your stand, discuss some of the things a working mother can do to ensure that she and her children spend quality time together.
Equality in Today's Society

Some people feel that men and women still have gender specific roles. I disagree with this statement. In today’s society, most of the time men and women are given the same opportunities. Americans have broken down the barriers of gender specific roles. Men and women are now liberated and are free to choose their roles in life.

To begin with, some fathers have chosen the role of the “housewife”. In today’s society, it is socially acceptable for the father to stay at home with the children while the wife becomes the primary breadwinner. Take for instance, my cousin Jeff’s family. He stays at home and takes care of the children and has assumed the household responsibilities. His wife has a wonderful career and is the primary breadwinner. For Jeff, it is gratifying for him to be able to take care of his children that he adores and attend to the day-to-day things. His wife on the other hand, is happier working and pursuing her business career. So, they decided to switch the traditional “gender” roles and for them, this lifestyle works. They are both happy and supportive of each others roles in their family as are the children. With this example, it proves that traditional “gender” roles have certainly changed over time.

Secondly, women are now more educated and are assuming roles in higher level positions. In the past, this was unheard of primarily because women were thought more of housewives, not executives. For instance, my aunt is the vice president of a power telecommunications company. She went to college and achieved her degree in Business Management. Starting off as a teller, she work her way up the corporate chain and proved her value in the Company. Management has accepted her as a powerful employee and not a typical “housewife” as females were once thought of. It is people like my aunt, who has made a significant statement that women do have the knowledge to succeed in a predominately mans world. She is an example of how our society has become liberated to socially accept women as equals to men in the business community.

Lastly, the specific roles of men and women have become intertwined. In the past, men and women have typically taken on roles that they feel were designed for their specific gender. For instance, women worked as waitresses or nurses and men as mechanics or truck driver. Think about it. In the past, almost all waitresses or nurses
were female. Women are though of as sensitive, caring individuals which are qualifications needed to be successful in these positions. Men on the other had, were thought of as strong and physically hard workers, which is acceptable to be a mechanic or a truck driver. In these days, the gender roles have certainly been broken and no matter whether you are a man or women, as long as you are skilled and capable to perform the job, you will be considered. It took many years for society to break these barriers. And now, in most cases men and women are looked at as equals. It is the hard work of every citizen over time that has broken down the barriers for gender specific roles.

In conclusion, men and women are liberated in the United States and have freed the idea of gender specific jobs. With father's choosing the roles as housewives and women taking on executive position, it is clears that society has broken down these barriers. And most important, the specific roles of men and women have become intertwined. Some people feel that American still conform to gender specific roles, however these are individuals who have not taken a deep look at our society and the equal opportunities that now exist for both men and women.
Gender Roles in a Liberated Society

Our society is very different from yesteryear in which a man's place was working, and a woman's place was in the home. Today, men are able to be stay-at-home fathers, while the women 'bring home the bacon.' Women are able to hold roles previously left primarily for men such as board members, upper management, and other positions of power. Men are also able to hold jobs such as nursing, teaching, and designers, which were previously thought of as feminine occupations. Men and women today are free to explore various roles previously unheard of for their gender.

The largest switch that we have seen in gender roles is the emergence of the stay-at-home father. The homemaker was a role that has traditionally been held by the wife or mother of a household. However, due to today's changing economic landscape, the primary breadwinner might not be the man, but the woman of the household. This leaves the man to take care of the house and children. While I am employed part time, I still consider myself a stay-at-home father. My wife holds two jobs; she has been the one fortunate enough to find profitable employment. We both decided it made more sense for me to stay home with the children than to spend the unnecessary expense on daycare. This is a situation that I am sure many other families have faced. Therefore, the economy has been an integral part in taking the stigma out of this switch in gender roles.

Another switch in gender roles is the surge of women holding positions of power. It was previously thought that there was a 'glass ceiling' that women could not exceed. While this ceiling might still exist, it has definitely been raised. Positions which were previously held by the 'good old boys club' is now being held by women; positions such as board members, upper management, partners in law firms, directors, politicians, etc. I am not sure if men were previously threatened by women in these positions, or if they felt women would be incompetent in such roles. However, as more women hold these roles, it is clear that they are not only capable, but are some of the most proficient leaders of our time. In my own personal experience, I have found that the more competent of all of my managers have always been women. Therefore, I feel
that there is no longer a stigma that prohibits women from entering certain fields or positions. Instead, all fields have been opened up without stigma as they have proven themselves fully capable to excel at all roles.

Women have not been the only ones to take on non-traditional roles. Men have also extended their positions as they have taken on roles such as nurses, teachers, designers, flight attendants, and housekeepers. However, the ability for men to hold these roles has actually proven to be a valuable asset. It is beneficial to have a male nurse in the event that a patient requests that no females care for them. As children lose their male role models in their personal lives, male teachers have become an excellent way to fill this void. As for designer, it is a well-known fact that some of the most popular and well-known fashion designers are now men. It does seem that it has taken a longer time for the stigma to wear off the male roles. However, it is a battle we are well on the way to winning.

Our society likes to put labels on people and roles. This has created a society in which men and women have been sorted into traditional roles according to their gender. Fortunately, this is a trend that we have broken away from in recent years. Now, more than ever, men and women are able to hold whatever roles they find most fulfilling, without the fear of social stigma.
In our country it would be an understatement to say that women have been suppressed in recent history. Gender roles have set the tone in a woman's life for hundreds of years. Women were thought of as inferior in every way imaginable compared to the men. Currently, we have come a long ways from our previous views of women. The United States has become a liberated society that does except the idea of men and women competing equally in the work force.

Gender roles in the United States plagued women for over a hundred years. In our country's early years gender roles were clear. A woman would stay home, take care of kids and household chores as the man went out and worked hard to earn money. Dinner was expected to be hot on the table as the man walked in, and it had better be exactly what he ordered before he left for work. To me, this sounds like slavery. And in my opinion slavery is what it was. The wife in what we would call an old fashion relationship was suppressed to the point where she practically couldn't have her own thoughts. Gender roles have changed in the past fifty to a hundred years. Currently woman are much freer and are thought of as their own person. I don't believe in gender roles. I think a person is a person and has an equal shot at life no matter what your skin tone gender or sexual orientation. Now, women are a huge part of our current day to day work force, and political system. This shows how far the United States has come from its previously enforced gender roles.

It is not uncommon for a young woman to start working a part time or full time job at a young age. We see all ages of woman working all types of jobs. Unlike our previous history when a young woman would be expected to help Mom with the chores after school, we now see women starting to join the work force at age 16. This fact alone shows how our country has become liberated. In addition, we can also see that women have been accepted into all types of jobs and are given the same equal opportunity as men. For example, we have women police officers, CEOs, fire fighters, agents, business owners, professional athletes and more. I think that women are accepted into such high power jobs because of the fact that they have worked from a young age, and have a lot of credibility. When a young women is building a resume and can list she has had a job for the past 5 years it makes her extremely valuable. It
gives her an equal opportunity at getting a high paying job after college. All this is made possible from our county’s recently liberated views on gender roles.

Some of our counties most prominent and active people are women. Women have staked their claim in all areas of the work force. The United States government has had extremely powerful women leaders in the past years, and almost had our first woman president. Some women in our government that really stand out are Dian Feinstein, Hillary Clinton. In the world of media and show time, there are also two prominent women. Opera Winfree, and Ellen Degenerous. Both these women have opened the doors of opportunity to women who inspire to be a face in show business. Recently women athletes have been stealing the spot light. The women’s PGA tour is a favorite of mine. On any sport station you can see woman athletes taking action and competing in top sporting events. My point here is simple. Not only has our country welcomed. Women into the work force, but the women are taking advantage of every opportunity. It is clear that our society has thrown out gender roles and accepted female workers into the work force.

Lastly I want to discuss the educational opportunities that are now given to women that were not in the past. The amount of education that is required in order for these extraordinary role model women to succeed in their jobs is immense. In the past it was not accustom for ladies to be admitted to any sort of higher education. There was simply no need at the time because the men made all the money. Now some of our countries most brilliant people are woman. Our most prestigious universities are run by women and classes are taught by women professors with master degrees and doctorates. This would have been unheard of a hundred plus years ago. Personally some of my favorite higher education professors were women and did a fabulous job instructing. Again my point is clear, society clearly does not hold the same bigotry views about women, and they support them and encourage them to succeed.

In conclusion, women and men gender roles have changed immensely over the past years. We, as a country have learned from our mistakes and build off of them. Gender roles will continue to change and shape into new customs. But one thing is for sure. Women have staked their claim in the workforce, and have proven to be a extremely valuable part of our country.

The United States has become a liberated society that does except the idea of man and women competing equally in the work force.
Stereotypes Can Be Good

American culture would like us to believe that as a society we have broke passed the gender stereotype. But I believe there is still a strong belief that stereotypical, gender specific jobs are normal and promoted in America. Men and women are equal dont get me wrong, but not interchangable.

My mother, I guess you could say is the perfect picture of a stay at home mom. Cooking, cleaning, and taking care of my siblings and I was her life. It wasn’t like she was surpressed into the job of being a stay at home mom. She chose it. She gave herself to her family. I’m not saying all women should follow after my mom, what I’m saying is that it is proven that the more parental involvment you have the better off your children will be. A study published by the institute for Social and Economic Research states that “The children of mothers who return to work full time in the years before the children start school have a slower emotional development and score lower on reading and math tests.”

Even if you take a look in the employment industry you see examples of men or woman dominated work environment . Construction is a big male dominated work place. I don’t necessarily think thats a good or a bad thing. A friend of mine who works in construction he told me that “man are wired different then women and because of that fact we gravitate naturally to different forms a employement.”

Now you might think I’m sexist for agreeing with my friend, but you can look at everyday life see “stereotypes” played out right in front of you. For instance, if you saw a woman mowing her lawn while her husband sits watching her work. Most of you would look at this situation and say “What a dirt bag making his wife mow the lawn!” But flip that senario around and the husband mowing the lawn and the wife watching you wouldn’t think twice about it.

The stereotypical genders roles are not a negative thing. Especially when have kids your life is given to them. Everything you do is for the kids. Children that have both parents that work most of the time feel neglected and lonely which could lead to depression or acting out and rebelion later on in life. One of my familys long times
friends had this same exact problem. The family was fine financially, both parents worked. They had high level jobs working as doctors at the same hospital. But they never really made time for their children. Now the family is very disfunctional. The children who are now adults never visit or talk to their parents at all. A stay at home mom is not just a surprising stereotype its a beneficial tool to your childrens happiness and well being.

These stereotypes aren’t bad. It’s just the way we choose to look at them. Women have the right to go against the stereotype, but their doing their children a disservice in thinking that money is more important than a relationship.
Liberated Society

In “Working Mothers are benefiting the Family,” Supreet Mann writes, “Working mothers are forced to go against the long held stereotype of the typical family to do what is best for their families in today’s times.” The “long held stereotype of the typical family” is, of course, a father who works and a mother who stays at home. Times have changed and now men and women work towards equal rights. I know women who are the bread winners of the family, and fathers who stay home to take care of the children. We live in a liberated society that is generally free of the idea of “men’s jobs” and “women’s jobs”.

To begin with, more men are now becoming nurses, while more women are becoming doctors. Our health system needs loving and caring individuals no matter if they are male or female. For example, years ago men were never considered or accepted in the nursing field. Now in your local hospital you will most likely be attended to by a male nurse. When my grandmother was hospitalized, her nurse was fabulous. The nurse was not a woman, but a 27 year old gentleman named Joshua. I have to say Joshua was most the hard working, sincere and caring nurse I have ever met. My grandmother fell in love with him and requested Joshua whenever possible. Similarly, my grandmother’s personal care physician is a female. Dr. Li is a well educated woman, she is a very successful doctor in our local neighborhood. When she attended medical school, she was scrutinized for becoming a female doctor. Dr. Li states she was out casted by all the other doctors to be and there was only one other female in her school. Now many more women are accepted as doctors, and some actually become high ranking doctors. In these instances, its obvious times are changing and more men and women are taking on jobs that were never aloud years ago.

Furthermore, more men are becoming stay at home fathers, while the women are the bread winners of the family. This would never be accepted if we didn't live in a liberated society. For instance, my aunt Melissa is a very successful lawyer. She has been in practice for over 10 years and is well known in our society. Melissa and her husband Jeff have 3 beautiful children together, and have raised them to become
respective children. Two years ago Jeff lost his job, and was devastated. He felt lost and not good enough for his family. My aunt Melissa came up with an idea for him to stay home and raise the children and work part time on a business he has always wanted to do. Many years ago, men went to work and the woman stayed home. Today times have changed and I believe this is a great way for equal rights for both men and women. In addition, my very close friend Tara and her fiancé Dave have a beautiful baby boy who will turn 1 next month. Tara and Dave both work but they have careers where they work different hours so they do not have to place the baby in daycare. Tara takes care of the child during the day, while Dave works at a local construction company. When Dave returns home from a hard days work he then takes the role as a dad and takes care of the baby while Tara works nights at a local hospital. In this relationship both of them are responsible for bringing in money and also equally responsible for being the caregiver the baby. The examples of my aunt Melissa and my very close friends Tara and Dave clearly illustrates how we now live in a liberated society and are free of the long held stereotype of men and women.

Finally, high power jobs are now available to women and not just men. Many women are now working in higher positions and actually have men working under them. For example, I work at a local business were three out of four managers are women. Our actual president of the company Marsha was just appointed the position and became the first women president in the history of the company. Marsha is very well educated and we are all happy that women have the opportunity to work in high positions. Since Marsha has taken the role of CEO more women are now applying for manager positions and I personally have applied for a high rank position as a supervisor. In the same way, more women are even entering the world of politics and even run president of the United States. In the last few years we have seen Hillary Clinton run for President, and finally became Presidents Obama’s secretary of state. We also have seen Sarah Palin run for vice president and she actually held the title of Governor or Alaska. Many women are now being highly respected and more women are becoming voices of the United States. This is a drastic change compared to years ago when women could not even vote. The examples above prove that we no longer live in a gender role society, and all men and women are treated equal in various high power jobs.
As everyone can see, we live in a liberated society that is generally free of the idea of “men's jobs” and “women's jobs”. More men are becoming nurses, as more women are becoming doctors. Also, more men are becoming stay-at-home fathers, while the women are the breadwinners of the family. Most importantly, high power jobs are now more available to women and not just men. Unfortunately, there are still a few people in our society that still believe in gender roles but overall, the rule no longer applies.
Sample Essay #6

Working Mothers

Now a day families are getting more untraditional in the household. Both parents of a family have jobs or careers. As of before the man of the family usually worked. Well the the women stayed home and handled the children and the upkeep of the house. This change happen in families more everyday. As the coast of living go’s up it’s easier to pay the bills and still get the luxerys of life well two people are working. Some more traditional people may argue that mother that work spend less time with their children than a stay at home mother. Critic would argue that it is difficult for a tired working mother to give her children her full attention. I feel that working women are benefiting their families and teaching their children valuable life lessons.

Working mothers and non working mothers have a common goal in mind for their families. That their children are well taken care of and provided with everything that they might need. Even though a stay at home mother likley spends more quality time together with her children. A working mother can have that same quality time with her children even after a hard days work. When I started school my mother joined the work force a long with my father. My mother worked a morning shift at the cannery. Knowing she wasn’t going to see me for eight hours she would wake me up at six o’clock in the morning everyday with her to have breakfast and spend a little quality time together. We would talk joke around tipical family stuff. After breakfast it was time for me to go to school and my mom work. My mom would be off work before I got out of school so when I got home she was there. Even after working a eight hour shift she would make dinner for the family and help me with eny homework I had for the following day. As a working mother my mom alway ensured that she spend quality time with her children.

People can argue that stay a home mother spend more quality time with their children but I feel working mother even after working a eight hour shift spend the same amount of quality time with their children.

I know some stay at home mom’s even though they have their children all all day half the time they put their kids in front of a television for hour out of time. That
ant quality time. So if the argument is mothers spending quality time with their children I think working mothers and stay at home mothers contribute the same amount of quality time with their children.
Spending quality time with your children is important

In today’s society you will find it common for women to be employed full time. Some would say that this takes away the quality time mothers spend with their children. I disagree with this. There is many examples of why this is not true. I know many working mothers that are able to spend quality time with their children. Working mothers are able to spend quality time with their children in many different ways.

To begin with, working mothers can teach their children how to cook or bake. This can teach children skills for their future. For example, working mothers have the opportunity to come home and have their children help cook dinner. This will help the child and mother not only bond, but also help the child gain knowledge of how to prepare meals. This is exciting for a child to learn. Children enjoy measuring ingredients for their parents. They also enjoy the time spent cooking. Similarly, children are able to spend time baking with their parents. When I was younger I enjoyed baking goodies with my mother. At least once a week she would come home from work, and we would bake cookies of my choice. This always excited me. As an adult, baking is something that I picked up from my mother, and I now spend quality time with my children doing this. The examples of a child learning how to cook and bake with their mothers, is a great way for a working mother to spend quality time with her children.

Furthermore, working mothers can spend time with their children by helping with school work. This will benefit the child in many ways. For example, when my children get home from school they always have school work. They enjoy my help. It allows us to spend time reading to each other. If the child has any difficulties reading this will help them to understand. Both of my children enjoy the time we spend reading. In addition, when children spend time with their mothers doing school work, they will benefit in areas that need improvement. My son was having a problems understanding science. With my help, he overcame those problems. He is now doing very well in his science class. As a working mother I enjoy helping my kids succeed in school. With that, working mothers are able to help their children read and understand school work, as well as help them understand subjects that they have problems with.
Finally, working mothers can spend time with their children by taking them for afternoon walks. Children will benefit from this, and be able to spend time with their mothers. For example, my friend Christina works full time. When she gets off of work, she try’s to take her kids on walks often. This is so that she can spend time with them. This is also a good way for her, and her children to get in daily exercise. Kids always enjoy a nice walk. Also, I too work full time. When I get off work, my kids love to take afternoon walks. I am able to talk to my children about their daily activities, while we walk to the park. This brings a smile to their faces. I enjoy this type of quality time. With that, children enjoy spending time with their mothers by taking walks to the park or even just to get daily exercise.

As everyone can see, working mothers are able to spend quality time with their children in many different ways. Working mothers can teach their children how to cook or bake, and working mothers can spend time with their children by helping with their school work. Most importantly, working mothers can spend time with their children by taking them for afternoon walks. Spending time with your children is important in today’s society.