

Step Up WIP

Student Samples

Student Samples - 1

In science class, I feel comfortable
working with everyone.
Less of a gender issue, more
of a person issue.
I feel comfortable working
with men + women.

I have not dealt with any of these
experiences nor have I heard of any/
or seen any.

Assuming that some gender differences
are based on sexism and involuntary
bias is slightly sexist within itself,
as well as being ignorant and closed
minded.

Student Samples - 2

I had a lab partner who was male, and whenever we did a lab, I seemed to always be writing down the data. When I wasn't just writing down answers, my actual work or actions were questioned by him more times than he would question our other partner/partners.

My sister wants to become a surgeon but every time she mentions her interest in bio and the medical field, many always think of nursing primarily and not becoming a surgeon.

- When teachers ask "two strong boys" to carry books when there are also strong girls.

- In my household it is very apparent that women should be cooking and cleaning. Because of where I come from there is a stereotype as to the roles of a house.

- Also at times I feel more comfortable with a female doctor rather than a male one.

Sometimes I feel like, when working in groups with boys, they don't believe I'm capable of doing actual work. They'll have me take down numbers and things that don't actually show my full potential (even though I'm really smart).

Also there are just some boys that are blatantly sexist and believe girls don't know math/science.

Student Samples

Respond to the following questions by crafting at least a paragraph for each section:

Based on the class discussion, do you believe society discourages (subtly or obviously) women from becoming interested in physics careers? Why or why not? If so, what do you think could be done to reduce the effect of discouragement?

I believe society discourages women from becoming interested in physics careers. Since the beginning of time, women were expected to act a certain way and fill certain roles. Though society has modernized, it has not been enough so that women and men are of equal standards. To reduce the effect of discouragement society (parents, school, government) must show women all options, for example guidance counselors showing careers or having teacher female role models.

In what ways do you think societal beliefs about gender have influenced your career interests? Does this influence bother you? Why or why not?

Wanting to have a career in nursing, I often ponder if I push towards nursing because of my gender. I chose this path on my own because I love health science. However, my possible subconscious societal influence does bother me. I tend to ponder, if society did not influence people's view on gender, would I be interested in nursing? It also bothers me that I may never actually fully answer that question.

Based on the class discussion, do you believe society discourages (subtly or obviously) women from becoming interested in physics careers? Why or why not? If so, what do you think could be done to reduce the effect of discouragement?

I think society subtly discourages women from becoming interested in physics careers because of the lack of portrayal in the media. Representation in the media is important because it can mark someone early on to not take pride in their interest because it is not "normal". In the media, they do not highlight women who have taken part in sciences, rather limiting them to certain roles or interests.

In what ways do you think societal beliefs about gender have influenced your career interests? Does this influence bother you? Why or why not?

For me, I question whether my interest in mechanical engineering stems from cultural pressure combined with societal beliefs. Having a strong Haitian heritage and connection, that society often attributes success with men as becoming a lawyer, doctor, or engineer. The idea that I might of been subconsciously influenced by societal pressure bothers me. If societal pressure influenced my interest, I question what other aspects of myself is a result of that society.