

## **Girls as young as 6 believe men are smarter than women, study shows** *\*(DUE: Friday, 2/17)\**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Can women be brilliant? Little girls don't know.

A study published January 26 in the journal Science suggests that girls as young as 6 can be led to believe men are smarter and more talented than women. The authors of the study were surprised that these stereotypes affect children at such a young age. Gender stereotypes are ideas about men and women that are not based in truth. One gender stereotype is the idea that men are smarter than women. This can make girls less likely to go after difficult careers or activities.

### **Girls Begin To Believe They Are Not As Smart As Boys**

These results show that girls begin to believe they are not as smart as boys. They avoid difficult subjects in school, leading to big differences in goals and career choices between men and women. The authors of the study wrote that stereotypes keep women from trying to have careers in fields where brilliance is favored.

It is still unclear where the stereotypes come from. Parents, teachers, peers and the media are the usual suspects, researcher Andrei Cimpian said. It is clear that action must be taken so that these ideas don't stop girls' professional goals, he said. "Instill the idea that success in any line of work is putting your head down, being passionate about what you are doing," Cimpian said. She added that it helps girls to see successful women as role models.

### **Professor Says Children Can Believe In Their Own Intelligence**

"We need to explain to children that laws were created specifically to prevent women from becoming great scientists, artists, composers, writers, explorers and leaders," Professor Rebecca Bigler added. She believes children can believe in their own intelligence and potential. Then, they can pursue any career and fight for women to be treated equally with men.

## **Girls as young as 6 believe men are smarter than women, study shows** *\*(DUE: Friday, 2/17)\**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Can women be brilliant? Little girls don't know.

A study published January 26 in the journal Science suggests that girls as young as 6 can be led to believe men are smarter and more talented than women. The authors of the study were surprised that these stereotypes affect children at such a young age. Gender stereotypes are ideas about men and women that are not based in truth. One gender stereotype is the idea that men are smarter than women. This can make girls less likely to go after difficult careers or activities.

### **Girls Begin To Believe They Are Not As Smart As Boys**

These results show that girls begin to believe they are not as smart as boys. They avoid difficult subjects in school, leading to big differences in goals and career choices between men and women. The authors of the study wrote that stereotypes keep women from trying to have careers in fields where brilliance is favored.

It is still unclear where the stereotypes come from. Parents, teachers, peers and the media are the usual suspects, researcher Andrei Cimpian said. It is clear that action must be taken so that these ideas don't stop girls' professional goals, he said. "Instill the idea that success in any line of work is putting your head down, being passionate about what you are doing," Cimpian said. She added that it helps girls to see successful women as role models.

### **Professor Says Children Can Believe In Their Own Intelligence**

"We need to explain to children that laws were created specifically to prevent women from becoming great scientists, artists, composers, writers, explorers and leaders," Professor Rebecca Bigler added. She

believes children can believe in their own intelligence and potential. Then, they can pursue any career and fight for women to be treated equally with men.

#### **AOW Response**

Write a one-paragraph response to the article. This response is YOUR opinion, but it MUST respond to something stated in the article, and it MUST be based on facts and sound reasoning.

Ideas for how to respond: 1) **DISAGREE** with something (ex., that women aren't treated equally), 2) **AGREE** with something and provide additional reasoning (ex. negative stereotypes about girls exist...), 3) write a **DEFINITION** (ex. what it means to be a man or woman), or 4) **SHARE** a personal experience and how it shaped your thinking on the issue.

#### **AOW Response**

Write a one-paragraph response to the article. This response is YOUR opinion, but it MUST respond to something stated in the article, and it MUST be based on facts and sound reasoning.

Ideas for how to respond: 1) **DISAGREE** with something (ex., that women aren't treated equally), 2) **AGREE** with something and provide additional reasoning (ex. negative stereotypes about girls exist...), 3) write a **DEFINITION** (ex. what it means to be a man or woman), or 4) **SHARE** a personal experience and how it shaped your thinking on the issue.

