

“My Daddy Might have Loved Me”:  
Students Perceptions of Differences  
Between Being Male and Being Female

“If you woke up tomorrow and discovered that you were a (boy) (girl) how would your life be different?”  
by Alice Baumgartner

**1. Career Choice**

Boys' Comments

“If I where a girl, I would be expected to get married rather than have a career.” 10<sup>th</sup> grade

“I couldn't be able to keep my job as a carpenter.” 12<sup>th</sup> grade

“I would refuse to work as a secretary or something stupid like that.” 11<sup>th</sup> grade

Girls' Comments

“My goal as a girl is to be nothing.” 4<sup>th</sup> grade

“I could run for president.” 10<sup>th</sup> grade

“I want to be a nurse, but if I were male I would probably want to be an architect.” 4<sup>th</sup> grade

“I were a boy I would be treated better. I would get paid more and be able to do more things.” 4<sup>th</sup> grade

**2. Appearance**

Boys' Comments

“I would use a lot of makeup and look beautiful to everyone, not may people would care about my personality. The majority would like to have me just like a sexual object.”  
12<sup>th</sup> grade

“I would be treated like a sex symbol.” 11<sup>th</sup> grade

“I couldn't be a slob anymore. I'd have to smell pretty.” 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Girls' Comments

“If I were a boy I wouldn't have to be neat.” 4<sup>th</sup> grade

“I wouldn't have to worry about how I look.” 6<sup>th</sup> grade

“If I woke up tomorrow and I was a boy. I would go back to bed since it would not take very long to get ready for school.” 10<sup>th</sup> grade

**3. Violence**

Boys' Comments

“If I were gorgeous I would be jeered at and hear plenty of comments.” 12<sup>th</sup> grade

“I'd have to know how to handle drunk guys and rapists.” 8<sup>th</sup> grade

“I would always carry a gun around for protection.” 4<sup>th</sup> grade

“I wouldn't have to worry about being scared to fight.”

Girls' Comments

“I wouldn't have to put up with leers while walking down the street.” 11<sup>th</sup> grade

“I wouldn't have to worry about being raped.”

“I could beat up people.” 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**4. Peer relations and activities**

Boys' Comments

“NO one would make fun of me because I'm afraid of frogs.”

“Instead of wrestling with my friends I'd be sitting around and discussing like daily gossip.”

“I couldn't play football or basketball.”

“I would like pink and I would like ribbons and pigtails. I would always chase boys. I would like girl teachers better, and would not collect rocks anymore. I would be quieter and I'd take a bath in perfume mixed with bubble bath. I wouldn't like being a girl.”

Girls' Comments

“I'd have to put down all the girls.” 6<sup>th</sup> grade

“I wouldn't treat chicks like most guys treat me, because I know how it feels.”

“I could play baseball or go hunting without being hassled.”

**5. Personal behavior and self-concept**

Boys' Comments

“I wouldn't have to worry about responsibilities.”

“I would become less outgoing and more polite. I may become shy and be looked upon as a

fragile glass doll.”

“I’d have to be nicer and say proper things.”

“I’d have to be more quiet, more reserved, and wait for others to talk to me.” 10<sup>th</sup> grade

Girls’ Comments

“I’d have to be rowdy, smart alecky, noisy, macho, and say disgusting things.”

“I would be more active and show off more.”

“I would have to stay calm and cool whenever something happened.” 10<sup>th</sup> grade

**6. Freedom and restrictions**

Boys’ Comments

“I’d have to come in much earlier.”

“I couldn’t go out as much.”

Girls’ Comments

“I could stay out later.”

“There would be fewer rules.”

“I’d have more independence.”

“I’d be trusted more when driving.”

**7. Home Life**

Boys’ Comments

“If I were a girl, I would not be able to help my dad fix the car and the truck and his two motorcycles.”

6<sup>th</sup> grade

“I’d be the one who has the kid.” 8<sup>th</sup> grade

Girls’ Comments

“Life on the home front would be a lot easier. I know that for a fact since I’ve got a brother.” 4<sup>th</sup> grade

“I would not have to put up with the kids.” 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**8. School Life**

Boys’ Comments

“I would not want to take all of the math and science courses that I am taking now. I would mostly take art, food, and clothing classes.” 10<sup>th</sup> grade

“If I were a (female) athlete, I’d expect fewer people to come to the event.” 12<sup>th</sup> grade

“When you’re a girl, you cheer sports instead of joining them.” 4<sup>th</sup> grade

Girls’ Comments

“If I was a boy I’d drop my typing class and start taking really hard classes, since my dad would let me go to college and he won’t now.” 11<sup>th</sup> grade

“If I were a boy I’d get called on more to answer questions.”

“I might be expected to be more intelligent than the girls.” 9<sup>th</sup> grade

“I would probably act different toward my teachers, being less cutesy and vulnerable. Boys have to make it on their own.” 11<sup>th</sup> grade

“I would use the weight room without feeling funny.”

**9. Value Judgements**

Boys’ Comments

“Girls can’t do anything fun. They don’t know how to do anything except play dolls.” 4<sup>th</sup> grade

“If I were a girl. I would have to wear makeup, cook, be a mother, and yukky stuff like that.” 6<sup>th</sup> grade

“If I were a girl I’d be stupid and weak as a string.” 6<sup>th</sup> grade

“If I were a girl, I would want to be a boy.” 4<sup>th</sup> grade

“If I were a girl, I’d kill myself.”

Girls’ Comments

“I probably wouldn’t get nervous when I talk.” 6<sup>th</sup> grade

“I could do stuff better than I do now.” 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

“People would take my decisions and beliefs more seriously.” 11<sup>th</sup> grade

“I would get married and probably want to have children. I would surely want a son more than a girl.” 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

“If I were a boy, my father would be closer, because I’d be the son he always wanted.”

6<sup>th</sup> grade

“If I were a boy, my daddy might have loved me.” 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

