***Gender Stereotypes and Social Expectations: An Exploration of Gender and the Media***

*A gender-equal society would be one where the word 'gender' does not exist: where everyone can be themselves. -* Gloria Steinem

**The Essay Prompt:**

The Media plays an important role in how one perceives gender normative behaviors and how identity is constructed. Think about how masculine and feminine identities are portrayed in advertisements, television, and film. How influential are these texts in influencing how one perceives gender and gender roles?

For this essay, you will not only be asked to analyze the arguments from the various readings on gender that we have explored and discussed in this unit, but you will also have to analyze how gender normative behaviors are constructed by and reinforced through media portrayals by selecting an example from a film as the foundation for your argument and analysis. You will not only be expected to build on your analytical skills in this assignment, but now you must use them in order to persuade your audience to explore the topic of gender. You will need to select a film for your analysis that portrays the “working woman.” You will provide a very brief summary, the need to know details of the film, then proceed to dissect and explore how the character and film can relate to the conversations that we will be exploring in this unit. Remember, that this is not a summary of the film where you recap what happened in the plot. Instead, you will need to focus on key parts of your example and character portrayals to analyze and discuss how the media portrays and explores the topics we have discussed in class, such as: Can women have it all? Does our current societal structure allow for equal opportunity between the sexes? Does the film reinforce gender stereotypes? How does the film explore this question of if anyone can “have it all” in our current society? What insights can we gain from rhetorically analyzing these types of films? How are the female characters portrayed? How are their male counterparts portrayed? What does this tell us about our current society and its values? I am not expecting you to tackle and explore every single one of the questions, but they are meant to give you some ideas as to how you are going to tackle the subject and what aspect about the topic of gender that you want to focus on and explore.

**Requirements:**

* 1250 Word Count MINIMUM
* Must use TWO of the assigned readings in your text with quotes
* Must research TWO independent sources, refer to the Library Database to assist you
* Analyze the assigned film (with a focus on plot, dialogue, characters, etc.)
* Works Cited Page and Word Count at the end of the essay
* Correct In-text citations (Refer to MLA Handbook or OWL Purdue)

**Format:**

* 12 Point Font
* Times Roman/ Calibri
* Standard 1 Inch Margins
* Standard MLA Format

DUE DATE:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Peer Review Workshop (s):\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_