

John Page

ENG100

I-Search Paper

17 December, 2014

Benefits of Single-sex Education for Males as Opposed to Mixed-sex Education

I personally believe that single sex education for males is a more efficient and effective style of learning compared to a mixed sex style of education. Two other main advantages highlighted in a [2013 technical report on single-sex education](#) done by Connecticut's State Education Resource Center include that single-sex education “increases staff sensitivity and awareness of gender differences while making boys less competitive and more cooperative in class. Although single-sex schools challenge the Civil Rights Act of 1964, it was deemed Legal due to a few restrictions. [A UCLA information resource](#) states that the restrictions include that, the single sex schools must “be voluntary, everything taught in co-educational schools must be taught in a single-sex school, and for every male single-sex school in the district there must be a female school also; so each sex can have the opportunity to go to a single-sex school.” The two reasons stated above highlighted in the 2013 technical report on single-sex education will interpret why that specific style of education is more effective than mixed sex education.

Single-sex schools succeed at “Increasing staff sensitivity and awareness of gender differences([2013 technical report](#))”. For example the “[National Education](#)

[Association](#)” explains how American University professors, Myra Sadker and David Sadker wrote a book in 1993 (*Failing in Fairness: How America’s Schools Cheat Girls*) about the data of a three-year study that trained observers that visited more than 100 elementary school classrooms in Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, and noted student-teacher interactions. During this study the researchers noticed “Boys called out eight times as often as girls did. When a boy yelled out, the teacher ignored the “raise your hand” rule and usually praised his contribution. Girls who called out got reminders to raise their hands.” In a single-sex school, the teacher would not be as prone to act this way since they simply don’t have the capability or worry of having to teach a mixed sex classroom and face the possibility of acting in unintentional gender discrimination. Another issue the trained observers noticed was that “Teachers valued boys' comments more than girls' comments. Teachers responded to girls with a simple nod or an OK, but they praised, corrected, helped, and criticized boys.” This specific observation proves my point that gender differences have an effect on the teachers sensitivity toward each student, this has a negative effect on the students education by making the classroom less equal.

Furthermore, Single-sex education also achieves at “making males less competitive and more cooperative while in class ([2013 technical report](#)).” For example, Medicinenet.com clearly states how “puberty usually occurs in girls between the ages of 10 and 14 and between the ages of 12 and 16 in boys.” It may seem slightly off topic to think that something as normal as the process of puberty that every person endures at some point in their life usually around the same age could have an affect on school

work, cooperativity and concentration. With that being said, if you look at the ages of where puberty takes place, it is mainly set during the time period of attending mixed-sex education facilities for the majority of students. During this time period, certain hormones are distributed in the body (estrogen for women, testosterone for men) that creates an urge or a drive to focus on the opposite sex. In Alexia Seversons ["Testosterone Levels by Age"](#), Severson states "Testosterone is practically a super power among men, with the ability to control sex drive, promote muscle mass, increase energy, and even influence human behavior." Knowing this, it shows that the stage of puberty for men, when gaining testosterone takes place throughout high school. The hormone of testosterone has the ability to make men revolve and focus their mindset around and on women, compared to focusing on sports, school work, or normal childhood wants and needs. It's a normal and main process in growing up, but if looked further into; can show that this process obtained by all men can affect their performance in the classroom. With aging and gaining testosterone, male's minds and actions tend to solely revolve around women, and the reaction that they can possibly get from them. It becomes a competitive game of who can impress, or get a reaction from the opposite sex. Dr. Bruce Cook, principal of the Southport School on the Gold Coast, told the audience that "boys educated in single-sex schools end up being more confident and more courteous around girls". In coed schools, boys tend to adopt a 'masculine' attitude because girls are there," he said. "They feel they have to demonstrate their emerging masculinity by gross macho over-reaction." Boys in single-sex schools "become more sensitive men," and they're more polite." This all has a way of rooting back to academic

success in mixed education. Students wants and needs begin to, and continue to focus on the opposite sex, and attracting them. Students that attend a single sex education facility may still undergo the same situation of puberty, hormones, and feelings; but are not put in the same situation at school that drives these feelings and refrains the student from focusing on their education compared to focusing on the opposite sex.

The benefits and successful outcomes of single sex education for males are clearly beneficial and make an impact on education. As shown by the highlighted advantages in the technical report shown above, staff sensitivity awareness increases while boys become less competitive and more cooperative in the classroom. This calls for a better learning environment for not only the staff but also most importantly, the students. Along with a better learning environment, restriction precedents set in 1964 require that all materials and course work taught in the popular co-educational school system be replicated in the single sex learning environment. Equality of education and what is being taught in our country is highly important, with the restrictions set; there is no worry that the different learning environments would cause a difference in the knowledge offered to gain. It would only make sense with the studies and proven facts shown through experiences of the alternate single sex education school system, that single sex education is an all around more beneficial and more intelligent style of education.