

Extra Credit Week 2 Option 2

5 points

THE COMPONENTS OF GENDER STEREOTYPES

Purpose: This exercise is designed to evaluate the components of people's stereotypes about women, men, masculinity, and femininity.

Instructions: Using the interview formats on the following pages, interview two men and two women. Select a variety of participants for this project. Include people who vary not only by sex but by other social categories (for example, age, race or ethnicity, sexual orientation, social class, etc.). Be sure to describe each participant by indicating her or his sex, age, and social attributes (for example, race or ethnicity, social class, etc.) at the top of each interview form.

Summarize your findings by answering the following questions.

1. Did any of your respondents include personality traits (for example, independent, competitive, etc.) in their answers? If so, which personality traits?
2. Did any of your respondents include role behaviors (for example, being the breadwinner, taking care of children) in their answers? If so, which role behaviors?
3. Did any of your respondents include physical characteristics (for example, muscular, soft, etc.) in their answers? If so, which physical characteristics?
4. Relate your findings to the text's discussion of gender stereotypes and conceptions of masculinity and femininity. Compare and contrast your results to the research literature summarized in your text.

