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ENGL 1201 – HJ

01 December 2008

### Research Paper Assignment

College admissions officers should not consider gender when making the decision to admit or reject because not only is it discriminatory, but it is also more sensible that the officers choose the best applicants regardless of gender to meet, or even exceed, the standards of the college. Women have even been shown to be more interested in higher education than men (Lewin 1). For the first time, in 2004, women earned more than half of the degrees given in a year, whether they were associate, bachelor, doctorate, etc, and thus has been the trend ever since (Marklein 1). Unfortunately, as Britz states, “The reality is that because young men are rarer, they’re more valued applicants.” Even though colleges may find this problematic, this only shows the progress women have made and quite honestly, women deserve the equality they fought so long for. It just does not seem fair that private colleges are denying women admittance for the mere reason that there needs to be a gender balance and that less qualified men are being accepted over more qualified women. Although to a certain extent, gender balance is important, it should not be enforced at the expense of deserving and qualified women.

College admissions officers should not consider gender because it is discriminatory and unlawful. Applicants should not be rejected from the schools they apply to on the basis of sex. According to the United States’ Education Amendments of 1972, “No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from

participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program.” Unfortunately, only public colleges uphold equal protection and private colleges do not share the same admission restrictions (Levy-Prewitt 1). However, just because these private schools are exempt does not mean it is *right* for them to exercise gender balancing. Jennifer Britz, dean of admissions at Kenyon College, asks, “And what message are we sending young women that they must, nearly 25 years after the defeat of the Equal Right Amendment, be even more accomplished than men to gain admission to the nation’s top colleges?” (Britz 415). Gender balancing denies these women their right to equality, and as long as these women and schools are all in the same country, qualified and deserving women should be admitted to these schools.

Gender balance is important to attract both college-bound boys and girls, and as Britz states, “Once you become decidedly female in enrollment, fewer males and, as it turns out, fewer females find your campus attractive” (Britz 415). Unfortunately for colleges, they cannot control how many boys or girls will apply. However, despite any boy to girl ratio, students will still want to apply to those colleges with the smartest and best qualified students because they, too, will want to be associated with that vision. As Dr. Arthur Levine, the president of Columbia University’s Teachers College, states, “The problem is that if you take men who are not of the same caliber as the women, the highest-performing women leave, because the men aren’t as interesting” (Levin 1). Therefore, if colleges decide to admit the most qualified students, there should be no concern for gender balance. After all, shouldn’t colleges be more concerned about their standards of education for their students?

It is sensible that colleges choose the smartest and most qualified students out of the application pool, regardless of gender; the intelligence and quality of the students of the school will be higher compared to gender balanced population. In an effort to find out the reason why more women happen to apply to colleges and universities, it has been found that women care more about their academic achievement and are more interested in higher education than men are (Lewin 1). This discovery is also found among different ethnic groups, for example, black girls persist in school more than black boys do (Lewin 1). As stated by Tamar Lewin in his article for New York Times, “Department of Education statistics show that men, whatever their race or socioeconomic group, are less likely than women to get bachelor's degrees — and among those who do, fewer complete their degrees in four or five years. Men also get worse grades than women.” However, it is not as if women are smarter than men, women are just more focused and diligent. As Dr. Leonard Sax, physician and psychologist, pointed out in his book about the brain differences in men and women, Why Gender Matters, both men and women can excel in any subject (Brooks 414).

Many would agree that maintaining gender balance within private colleges is simply unfair. Jim McCorkell, founder of Admission Possible, a St. Paul program to help low-income high school kids prepare for college, tells USA Today, “If we had a tie (between a male and a female applicant), we gave it to a boy” (Lewin 1). Now, let us think in terms of soccer. At the end of the second half of a very important game, both the scores of the home team and the opposing team are tied. The referee cannot just call his favorite team to be the winning team; the two teams must play again in overtime for the winning title. Like soccer, the college application process is a competition – those who

worked harder and performed better received the desired outcome, or at least it should be and manipulating the results of who gets admitted – the “winners” – is cheating. It is unjustifiable that women, who have worked very hard to stand out in a majority of men, especially if these women deserve admittance, are being denied. After asking various students about the issue, Lewin found that “Men were significantly more likely than women to say they spent at least 11 hours a week relaxing or socializing, while women were more likely to say they spent at least that much time preparing for class. More men also said they frequently came to class unprepared.” Rick Kohn, a male student at the University of North Carolina, only a few credits short of graduation, confessed to be taking the 4 easiest courses. “I take the path of least resistance,” Kohn says. Lewin also interviewed a female student at American University who had recently broken up with her exemplar boyfriend; she states, “The men don't seem to hustle as much. I think it's a male entitlement thing. They think they can sit back and relax and when they graduate, they'll still get a good job.” For years and years, women have strived for equality and the same opportunities given to men. Now that women have been granted equality, they are taking full advantage of their opportunities. As Mary Beth Marklein states in USA Today, the increased number of females enrolling in colleges and universities is “a sign of women’s progress.”

College admissions officers should not consider gender when making the decision to admit or reject students into their college or university and gender balance should not be enforced for the reason that it is discriminatory, unfair, and insensible. Because women have the right to equality, if women are more qualified, colleges should not prefer

to accept less qualifying men over them. Women are very deserving and it is shown in their academic achievements compared to many of the less deserving men.

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