READING ANALYSES 3

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How is it that a simple term used to differentiate biological differences has become so fluid and complex? Gender. A word that’s inescapable in everyday life yet so misogynistic. The readings this week touched largely on gender ideologies portrayed through media that our society has so carefully constructed to depict a person’s role in these societal standards. The prominent argument was surrounding how the evolution of gender throughout history has changed drastically but has yet to stray from a divide in power, still carrying stereotypes that influence most people in everyday life. And that impact can be profound. To support this Gaye Tuchman from “Women’s Deception by the Mass Media” explains, “Considering present content to be variations on past themes minimizes any changes.”1 Furthermore, to expand on this idea that touch’s on if change in really change in gender ideologies Bordo from “Never Just Pictures” explains, “Images carry fantasized solutions to our anxieties and insecurities, and that’s part of the reason why they are powerful.”2 Although gender is evolving these reading describe a pattern of division and stereotyping that is learned and impacts us on a regular basis.

An alternate theme to these reading that I, as the reader, can take away and apply to my life is an expanded understanding of how embedded gender (and everything that that encapsulates) is in my life. I think that these readings have shown me that gender is inescapable but it also is a state of mind and awareness. I understand gender through what I have learned all my life growing up and that is largely incorporated in what I see though media. In order to reverse or change these ideologies I must look as gender with an alternate perspective and re-learn what is mean to be a woman in this world. And in doing to I must revert from society, media and fully understand my bias’.

In using these texts through research and life I will allow it to be a foundation in what society perceives gender to be and the impact that can have on my life. To re-learn gender is to re-learn the world and I need to understand first what the world believes to move forward in a enlightened way.

**Bibliography**

Bordo, S., “Never Just Picures,” in *Twilight Zones: The Hidden Life of Cultural Images*

Tuchman, Gaye, “*Woman’s Depiction by the Mass Media*,” Signs*,* 4,3 (Spring, 1979)