Research exercise: Research on Single Gender Environments

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Gender Gap

• What is it? Males and females are treated unequally in classrooms and therefore achieve on separate levels.
• Caused by differences in student learning styles and strategies among boys and girls.
• Boys are more verbally dominating in traditional schools so teachers praise them more so that they will behave. Meanwhile, girls are sometimes ignored because the teachers trust them.

Contradicting Evidence

• Results from tests to measure achievement between single gender or co-educational schools have been contradicting depending on which tests are compared and from what districts.
• There are so many factors that can play into a higher achievement level that researchers have not been able to isolate a single gender classroom as one of the causes.
• People say that since there is no concrete evidence to support or oppose same sex schools, they should not be used.

The Pros of Single Sex Education

• No distractions from opposite sex.
• Teaching style can be specific
• Less discrimination between sexes.
• Students give better evaluations of themselves.
• Students have better connections with teachers and one another.
• More leadership opportunities.
• They rid the stereotypes linked to masculinity or femininity of certain subjects.

The Cons of Single Sex Education

• Few reliable differences in learning styles between genders.
• Stereotypes arise because of the homophobic environment.
• Different interests between genders is irrelevant for the learning environment.
• They create an artificial learning environment.