

**English 101**  
**Professor Lewis**

## **Essay #1**

*Instructions:* Respond to the following prompt in 2-3 pages. You are required to cite from at least one source from *The McGraw-Hill Reader*. Head your paper and cite in MLA format. Review the syllabus for details about the paper's format. ***Please consult your syllabus for the essay due date.***

When a new baby is born, friends and family shower the child with gifts. Boys get blue clothes, toy trucks, and action figures. Girls get pink clothes, stuffed dolls, and kitchen sets. From birth, we have expectations of how they are going to act based on their gender. This grows with them in the transition from boy to man or girl to woman.

By the time people grow up, we have determined what makes a real man or real woman. These definitions, though, are tricky at best. Is a real man one who is smart like Bill Gates or Geoffrey Chaucer? Is he strong like Muhammad Ali or Chuck Norris? Is a real woman in touch with her emotions like Anne Hathaway or Natalie Portman? Is she seductive like Beyonce or Angelina Jolie?

What traits define a person as **masculine or feminine**? How can we tell what makes a person one of these two things?