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Student Name

ACWR 104 (4)

Research Proposal

2/03/2017

Why Did He Forget Our Anniversary?: Gender and Differences in Story and Object Recall Memory

In “The Gender Blur: Where does Biology End and Society Take Over?,” Deborah Blum meddles with the age old question of nature vs. nurture. In other words, are we born with innate predispositions and differences, or are we shaped by society’s expectations? This paper will consider this question, as it relates to memory. Although no one knows exactly why, it is often argued that the cognitive processes of men and women work differently, especially where memory is concerned. This paper will address the following question: how do specific types of memory work differently in men and women? Specifically, I will examine the differences between story memory and object recall memory. According to Blum (2007), social context has a huge influence on our lives, but she also admits that there are some biological differences that set us apart, at least at present. Exploring these diversities in male and female cognitive processes, including memory, could lead to a better understanding of how both men and women think and learn. This paper will explore the topic of gender-specific memory by assuming, like Blum, that there is causality between biology and society, or that the nature/nurture debate is more complex than we presume. This paper will take a psychological / neuropsychological approach in order to explain how the cognitive processes work.

Explicit memory (memories which can be consciously recalled) can be divided into two categories: episodic memory and semantic memory. This paper defines episodic memory as the memory of autobiographical events and semantic memory as the memory of meanings and other concept-based knowledge (Blum, 2007, p.143). Beginning with background information about specific types of memory and how they function, this paper will use empirical evidence such as statistical data, as well as observational records documenting the frequency of use of story versus object recall memory in men and women, in order to support its central argument.

Supported by research which defines the differences between male/female cognitive processes, I will argue that there are also specific differences in male/female memory recall.

**Comment [ART1]:** Remember to label your work with your full name, section number, title of assignment, and date – use 1.0 line-spacing for this section

**Comment [ART2]:** Give your proposed paper an original title, and center it in the middle of the page. Note how titles are capitalized.

**Comment [ART3]:** Use 1.5-space throughout your proposal and set margins to “normal.”

Research shows that women are significantly better at remembering past events, while men are better at object recall.

Sources will include:

Blum, D. (1998). "The gender blur: Where does biology end and society take over?". Utne Reader. Retrieved from <http://www.utne.com/politics/gender-blur-sex-differences-testosterone-hormones.aspx>.

Loftus, E. F., Banaji, M. R., Schooler, J. W., & Foster, R. (1987). Who remembers what?: Gender differences in memory. *Michigan Quarterly Review*, 26, 64-85.

Herlitz, A., Nilsson, L. G., & Backman, L. (1997). Gender differences in episodic memory. *Memory & Cognition*, 25(6), 801-811.

Association for Psychological Science. (2008, February 21). Sex Differences In Memory: Women Better Than Men At Remembering Everyday Events. ScienceDaily. Retrieved February 23, 2014 from [www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/02/080220104244.htm](http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/02/080220104244.htm)

**Comment [ART4]:** Use 1.0 line-spacing for reference lists in APA format

Elements in the Research Proposal:

- **Title:** Give your proposal a specific and succinct title which accurately reflects the topic/focus of your proposed paper.
- **Introduction of topic:** Offer a few opening statements which introduce the topic and main text (coursepack text), establish the reader's interest, and lay the foundation or background information for the problem.
- **Statement of problem/question:** Describe the specific problem at hand, your specific area of interest, and introduce your research question.
- **Significance:** Explain why your research question is important, referring to one or more of the course texts.
- **Approach/ Framework:** Explain how you will approach this topic/question. For example, are there any key viewpoints, theories, concepts, examples, or case studies which will guide your argument? Remember to acknowledge any sources used here, if applicable.
- **Key terms/concepts:** Introduce and define key terms/concepts related to your study (remember to acknowledge any sources used here).
- **Research plan:** Describe the kind of data, information, or sources you will need to use in order to explore the problem or answer the question.
- **Working thesis:** Briefly describe your viewpoint on the issue (your potential argument, or what your hypothetical paper will show).
- **Key sources:** At the end of your proposal, please provide a list of at least 3 reliable sources you have found in APA format.



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