

(Sample) Sentence Outline

Thesis: Research shows that single-sex classes are better for girls and, therefore, should be encouraged.

- I. During the first 200 years in America, women were not allowed in schools.
 - A. Initially, education was only for men.
 - B. Throughout the nineteenth century, the number of coed schools increased.
 - C. In 1972, Congress passed Title IX, a law prohibiting sex discrimination in educational institutions.

- II. One significant advantage of single-sex classes is the elimination of gender bias that often occurs in coed classes.
 - A. Teachers pay more attention to boys.
 1. Girls are not called on as often as boys in coed classes.
 2. Many times teachers tolerate disruptive behavior in boys but discourage the same behavior in girls.
 - B. Favoritism is also an issue in coed classes.
 1. Teachers “get a thrill from involving a boy who’s going to be disruptive.”
 2. Teachers have higher expectations for boys than for girls.

- III. Girls benefit from being free from the gender bias of coed classes.
 - A. They perform better academically.
 1. Textbooks “show an inherent and often inadvertent bias against females in textbooks.”
 2. This bias also shows itself in teaching techniques.
 - B. Techniques that are disadvantageous to girls are more apparent in certain subject areas.
 1. Girls show more interest in math when taught in single-sex classes.

2. This is also the case in science courses.

- IV. Not only do single-sex classes offer academic advantages, but also personal benefits.
- A. Distractions are eliminated when the sexes are separated.
 - B. All-girl schools offer a nurturing environment in which girls are not afraid to try.
 - 1. The single-sex environment makes girls feel more comfortable in class.
 - 2. In all-girl schools, one is respected for doing well in class, instead of being mocked by other students.
 - C. Girls have lower self-esteem than adolescent boys.
 - 1. Single-sex education compensates for this disparity.
 - 2. All positions of power are held by girls.