

Gender Point of View Exercise: Write a Narrative

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Journalism 3173: Magazine Writing

Men: You are an eight-year-old girl whose best friend has just been mean to you. What did she do? Explain it in some detail. Say what you plan to do.

Things to notice:

Relational aggression among girls is much subtler than among boys.

Don't write a man's point of view of the girl. Be the girl herself. This may be hard for some of you.

It's not always about Barbie dolls; that's almost a cliché for this exercise.

Women: You are a 10-year-old boy who just got a new football and is trying to use it to increase your stature in the neighborhood. What happens?

Things to notice:

Aggression among boys is usually blunter and more obvious.

Males in general are usually blind to their own self-aggrandizement, thus boys may be capable of making fatuous claims.

Avoid football clichés. A game might not even need to take place for this exercise, but it could. If it does, passes, runs, et al. will not necessarily forward the story action.

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