As Seen on TV

Think about your favorite TV shows and movies. Think about the careers and professions held by male and female characters in these shows and movies. Answer the questions below.

Is there a character in a TV show or movie who has inspired you to want to pursue a certain career (or avoid a certain career)? Give the title of the show/movie, identify the character/career and explain why.

TV Show/Movie Title:

Character/Career:

Why I would/would not want to pursue this career:

As Seen in the News

Studies show that men earn more than women who have the same careers. Read the excerpt from USA TODAY’s article “Study shows how broad pay disparities are between sexes.” Once you have read the article, complete the “Bookmark Notes.”

Women of all ages, races, ethnic backgrounds and education levels—and in almost every line of work—earned less than men [as reported by the American Association of University Women]…The report says that in 2010, women’s annual median earnings were $36,931, compared with $47,715 for men.

“Women and people of color don’t choose to earn less,” said Dana Schultz, Wisconsin state director of the 9to5 women’s advocacy group. “Many factors contribute to the over-representation of women in undervalued, underpaid occupations.”

The American Association of University Women used national and state Census data to determine 2010 annual median earnings for full-time workers older than 16.

Source: Study shows how broad pay disparities are between sexes, April 17, 2012. USA TODAY
Bookmark notes

According to USA TODAY’s article, what is the difference between women’s median annual earnings and men’s median annual earnings?

\[ \text{Men’s median annual earnings} - \text{Women’s median annual earnings} = \text{____________} \]

When you think about a career you would like to pursue, do you think your pay should be based on your experience and ability or your gender? Why?

Why do you think women are generally paid less than men for the same jobs?

If you had a chance to talk to employers who pay women less than men for the same job positions, what would you tell them?

As I See It

Think about a career that you might like to pursue when you are older. In the space below, create a help-wanted ad that lists the qualifications and qualities you think someone should have in order to be successful in that career. You will have a chance to share your help-wanted ad with the group.

Career:

Job title:

Qualifications:

Desired level of education:

Desired qualities:

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Extend Your Learning

Want to find out more?
Check out the following websites:

- Find out more about gender portrayals in children’s media: www.seejane.org

- Explore how boys and girls picture themselves in a variety of careers: www.seejane.org/resources/abcmouse.php.

- View videos that show how gender stereotypes exist in careers today: www.seejane.org/resources/guesswho.php.


- Find out more about girls and women in STEM: associationdatabase.com/aws/NCDA/pt/sd/news_article/55563/_PARENT/layout_details/true