

Creating Arguments From Sources

1 RESEARCH QUESTION

**Are strong female action heroes in media positive for women?
Why or why not?**

2 SOURCES

Increased endorsement of stereotypically masculine gender role expectations for women seems to indicate a broadening of appropriate gender roles for women, and endorsement of an aggressive female protagonist as an appropriate role model seems to indicate a reduction in the double standard that has been applied to interpretations of aggression. (Taylor & Setters)

The development of the hardbody, hardware, hard-as-nails heroine who can take it, and give it, with the biggest and the baddest men of the action cinema indicates a growing acceptance of nontraditional roles for women and an awareness of the arbitrariness of gender traits. (Brown)

The Washington University study found 56% of women saying that the female action subgenre was good for gender equality, and 75% said they could apply its themes to their own lives. (Cox)

Results showed that females in the group who watched superwoman protagonists were more likely to subscribe to the 'superwoman' ideal that women should excel both in traditionally feminine domains (e.g. nurturance, physical beauty) and in traditionally masculine domains (e.g. assertiveness, corporate success), and exhibited increased levels of stress and body dissatisfaction. (Everett & Martino)

A content analysis of 60 video games showed a predominance of male (86%) over female characters (14%). The women were usually in submissive roles, and were generally portrayed in a hypersexual way: they were partially nude, or dressed in sexually revealing clothing, and featured with unrealistic body shapes and large breasts. (Jansz & Martis)

Results showed that the majority of violent female action characters maintained gender stereotypes with respect to feminine traits of submission and affection. On average, most female action characters were portrayed as girlfriends or wives to the male heroes in the movies... The findings suggest that female action characters seem to be inserted into the story to support and promote the actions of the male hero. (Gilpatric)

3 WORKS CITED

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