

Women in Engineering Program

Micro-messaging Worksheet

Exercise #1: What are the micro-messages provided in the data? Are there positive or negative messages?

Exercise #2: What are macro-messages in society that deter women from engineering and STEM?

Exercise #3: What can I do to recognize micromessages? Is there something I can do today?

Exercise #4: Read Male ME student letter to editor

Male Engineering Student Pens Letter Explaining Why Female Classmates Aren't His Equals

by [Craig Carilli](#) October 9, 2015 Source: The Daily Good

Jared Mauldin, a senior in mechanical engineering at Eastern Washington University doesn't think female students are his equals and he sent a letter to the editor of his school paper saying so. I know this sounds like the horrible beginning of a misogynist rant, but that couldn't be further from the truth. Mauldin quickly switches gears in his letter when he explains why his female classmates aren't his equals.

"I did not for example grow up in a world that discouraged me from focusing on hard science," he wrote. "I was not bombarded with images and slogans telling me that my true worth was in how I look."

Mauldin goes on to highlight other issues women face in STEM fields and his letter has already been shared by thousands of people across social media.

You can read the full letter below.

Letters to the Editor

To the women in my engineering classes:

While it is my intention in every other interaction I share with you to treat you as my peer, let me deviate from that to say that you and I are in fact unequal.

Sure, we are in the same school program, and you are quite possibly getting the same GPA as I, but does that make us equal?

I did not, for example, grow up in a world that discouraged me from focusing on hard science.

Nor did I live in a society that told me not to get dirty, or said I was bossy for exhibiting leadership skills.

In grade school I never had to fear being rejected by my peers because of my interests.

I was not bombarded by images and slogans telling me that my true worth was in how I look, and that I should abstain from certain activities because I might be thought too masculine.

I was not overlooked by teachers who assumed that the reason I did not understand a tough math or science concept was, after all, because of my gender.

I have had no difficulty whatsoever with a boys club mentality, and I will not face added scrutiny or remarks of my being the "diversity hire".

When I experience success the assumption of others will be that I earned it.

So, you and I cannot be equal. You have already conquered far more to be in this field than I will ever face.

By Jared Mauldin

Senior in Mechanical Engineering