Option A: Media Stereotyping – Focus on Men and Masculinity

Select one essay thesis statement from the choices below. Write a three page, double spaced essay addressing the thesis statement you selected. Your essay must include:

1. An introductory paragraph wherein you set up your argument by writing the thesis statement and briefly explaining how you plan to argue your point.
2. 4-5 paragraphs arguing your point(s). Each paragraph should discuss slightly different aspects of your argument; each paragraph should be able to sort of stand on its own as a set of related statements. You should have 8-10 sentences per paragraph.
3. 2-3 paragraphs offering solutions to any problems you have brought forth.
4. A conclusion wherein you restate your thesis statement (using new wording) and sum up your argument in one or two sentences.

Thesis Statement Options:

**Boys are more likely to be influenced by media messages than girls. For this reason, boys should be closely monitored when viewing TV, watching movies, or playing video games.**

In a 2008 study cited on the Media Awareness Network, it was noted that while girls pick and choose what to take from media messages, boys tend to accept it all, kit-and-caboodle. This makes them more susceptible to negative or dangerous ideas. Give examples that demonstrate whether or not you do agree. If you agree, conclude your essay by providing suggestions for how boys can be protected from falling prey to negative media messages. If you disagree, explain why you do not see this issue as a problem.

**Men are often portrayed in limited roles such as the Joker, the Strong, Silent Type, or the Jock. Media images of men do not reflect the complexity of life as “regular guys.”**

Limiting the emotional range of roles available to men on TV and in movies is a damaging, disrespectful practice. Give examples that demonstrate whether or not you do agree. If you agree, conclude your essay by providing suggestions for how this practice could be improved. If you disagree, explain why you do not see this issue as a problem.

**Televised sporting events celebrate rivalry and violence among men, reinforcing the stereotype that aggression and violence is a natural expression of masculinity.**

Professional sports rank among the most watched TV programming, propagating the myth that men are inherently aggressive and competitive. Give examples that demonstrate whether or not you do agree. If you agree, conclude your essay by providing suggestions for how to mitigate the damage of this myth-making machine. If you disagree, explain why you feel this is not a problematic issue.