

# Case #3: My paper; I can do what I want

Bonnie Brown has to write a short persuasive essay about a contemporary issue and she's chosen to argue that teen culture has become over-sexualized and misogynistic. She finds an interesting opinion article online and she likes the way it presents the issue. Bonnie knows she can't just copy from the online article, so she decides to just use the same general structure. Here's Bonnie's introduction on the left with the blog post that inspired her on the right:

Lately, the media has been up in arms over Miley Cyrus' sexually charged performance at the MTV Video Music Awards. In my opinion, the people who criticize Cyrus are unfairly judgmental and even misogynistic.

There is no denying that Cyrus' performance was overtly sexual. The revealing costume, the "twerking," and the bizarre use of a giant foam finger all were scandalous, to be sure. But, few have criticized performer Robin Thicke in the same manner, even though he was just as much a part of the performance. Not only are the lyrics to his song blatantly sexist, but the official "Blurred Lines" video features several nude models *actually* being objectified. Of course, for all the similarities, there is one key difference that describes why the media is scandalized by Cyrus, but not by Thicke: men are expected to be misogynistic. . .

## The Misogynistic Judging of Miley Cyrus

So, there had been a lot of talk about Miley Cyrus' performance at the MTV Video Music Awards, talk that was largely misogynistic and judgmental. Let me explain.

26  
08  
2013

I found video of her performance online. Yes, it was highly sexualized. But, why is there so little outcry regarding the performance of Robin Thicke? After all, he was a part of the sexualized performance. I found the lyrics to "Blurred Lines" difficult to read, as they seemed to sexually objectify women. There are two versions of the video for that song, too. One must be logged into YouTube with an "adult's" account to view the uncensored version. It is much more sexualized than Ms. Cyrus' performance.

But, Mr. Thicke isn't a woman. Therefore, it's okay and even expected for him to be deprived.

She's been described as a train wreck by various "journalists." That same phrase had been used to describe Amanda Bynes. A key difference here would be that Ms. Bynes has had run-ins with the law and illegal drug use. Ms. Cyrus' crime? A sexually-charged performance. It's similar in the way that Britney Spears' younger sister, Jamie Lynn, was called a train wreck for being pregnant out of wedlock and becoming a teen parent. Waitamminute. Why wasn't the father of her child called a train wreck? Was I a train wreck, too, since I became a parent in my teens? Probably not, as that was long before my gender transition. Since I stayed with my partner and we raised our family together, I'm praised for not being a dead-beat dad. This is what happens when young men become fathers and choose to be present in the lives of their partners and children: they are respected. It's a different story entirely when young women become mothers. Young mothers are usually held in contempt even if they "take responsibility for their actions."

Then, there were the comments about how since Ms. Cyrus was nearly a Disney princess herself, that she should not be engaging in such behavior. Seriously? Is sex really that corruptive? How many of Ms. Cyrus' detractors had ever engaged in sex for any purpose other than procreation? Was her performance inappropriate for children? Sure. But guess what: she's 20 years old. She's not a child anymore.

The fact is that I rarely encounter this kind of backlash when a young man behaves this way. This could be misandristic as there are many who just seem to think that young men are just to be expected to be crass. But they aren't judged publicly to the same degree persons like Ms. Cyrus has been. I call bullshit: this is misogyny.

And, yes, women can be misogynistic too.

Share this: [Facebook](#) [Pinterest](#) [Press This](#) [Twitter](#)

By Connie Anne-McEntee at [doubleinvert.wordpress.com](http://doubleinvert.wordpress.com)

Has Bonnie plagiarized?