

Annotation #2

This next source is what I decided to use as my primary source, because it is a letter directed to the authors and editor of an article written that the two female medical students related to and perceived as being addressed to them. The article this letter is responding to is titled *With the Best Will in the World: How Benevolent Sexism Shapes Medical Careers*, and the title of their reaction sums up the med students feeling very well: *Eradicating benevolent sexism for tomorrow's doctors: A medical student's perspective*. They mention the internal biases for many people, that women are better placed in roles within the hospital that cater more towards being compassionate and more mothering because of the opinion that that is a woman's role. Women are commonly steered away from stereotypical male roles in hospitals, such as surgery. Despite the increasing numbers of females in medicine, this term benevolent sexism is something that can seriously hinder female progress. It can do this through remarks that at first glance seem supportive but can turn women away from certain roles due to condescension and discouragement. The medical student authors also mentioned that they were personally told that "being a female may 'work in [their] favor' in terms of career progression". This type of thinking automatically discredits all the effort that women put into their jobs and studies to work towards earning their position, while language like this suggests that the woman did not earn it.

This letter was very eye opening to me because I have heard and seen many instances of sexism in my life, but to hear these medical students' actual experiences made me think about what many women in the field go through everyday and all the microaggressions that they probably hear. I think that this is a very important issue to read about because it can educate ignorant people who may not even realize that they are being biased through certain ways that they might insinuate sexism comments. Personally, I believe that the last point that the authors made is the most noteworthy. Their last paragraph is the one that discusses how being a female is an advantage. That type of thinking shows that misogyny is a big issue in our world because when a female accomplishes something, then it is automatically assumed that they did not deserve it and only received that accomplishment due to their gender. However, when a male accomplishes the same thing, it is because of their skill. It is a very important idea because this is not only an issue of sexism; these biases are especially prevalent in terms of racism and need to be addressed.

Hughes, J., & Dewer, B. (n.d.). *Eradicating benevolent sexism for tomorrow's doctors: A medical student's perspective*. Wiley Online Library. <https://onlinelibrary-wiley-com.libezproxy2.syr.edu/doi/full/10.1111/medu.14139>.