**Disney Feminism Persuasive Essay Notes**

INTRO/CONCLUSION

“Jack Zipes (1995) suggests that Disney’s features encourage audiences ‘to long nostalgically for neatly ordered patriarchal realms’ (The Princess and the Magic Kingdom).” <http://engl1052017.web.unc.edu/unit-1-examples-of-student-work/feminism-in-disneys-moana/>

“Disney’s attempt at rebranding is displayed in their embracing of a society where females can be in positions of power and make their own decisions.” <http://engl1052017.web.unc.edu/unit-1-examples-of-student-work/feminism-in-disneys-moana/>

MP1-Frozen and female friendship/sisterhood

“Since its release, “Frozen” has earned $1.2 billion worldwide, becoming the fifth-highest-grossing film of all time and by far the highest-grossing animation” https://www.boxofficemojo.com/alltime/world/

“The Disney princesses own little control and agency. They are coerced to sacrifice essential parts of their personalities for men (for example the in the Little Mermaid, there is a loss of voice), or are coerced to serve their evil hearted stepmothers for years ( Cinderella and Snow White) and are presented for only a total of seventeen minutes of the entire movie (The Sleeping Beauty).”- [https://medium.com/@marria.qibtia18/beyond-the-damsel-in-distress-a-feminist-analysis-of-frozen-a694b5713677](https://medium.com/%40marria.qibtia18/beyond-the-damsel-in-distress-a-feminist-analysis-of-frozen-a694b5713677)

“Frozen subverts these ubiquitous and essentializing frozen tropes with the aid of its main characters, Elsa and Anna , who by being rich , white and shockingly thin do fit the profile of a classic Disney princess , however unlike others they display unparalleled agency and autonomy.” [https://medium.com/@marria.qibtia18/beyond-the-damsel-in-distress-a-feminist-analysis-of-frozen-a694b5713677](https://medium.com/%40marria.qibtia18/beyond-the-damsel-in-distress-a-feminist-analysis-of-frozen-a694b5713677)

“Elsa unlike other Disney princesses is presented with opportunities to render mistakes.” [https://medium.com/@marria.qibtia18/beyond-the-damsel-in-distress-a-feminist-analysis-of-frozen-a694b5713677](https://medium.com/%40marria.qibtia18/beyond-the-damsel-in-distress-a-feminist-analysis-of-frozen-a694b5713677)

“Elsa transforms into a lady who is in full and exigent control of her power and autonomy, ready to partake an active role in her life.” [https://medium.com/@marria.qibtia18/beyond-the-damsel-in-distress-a-feminist-analysis-of-frozen-a694b5713677](https://medium.com/%40marria.qibtia18/beyond-the-damsel-in-distress-a-feminist-analysis-of-frozen-a694b5713677)

“In her song “Let It Go” , Elsa sings that “perfect girl is gone” She alludes to the pressure of fitting in to a particular gender role of a princess, sister , daughter and releases herself from these pressures by allowing herself to render mistakes and living how she wills.” [https://medium.com/@marria.qibtia18/beyond-the-damsel-in-distress-a-feminist-analysis-of-frozen-a694b5713677](https://medium.com/%40marria.qibtia18/beyond-the-damsel-in-distress-a-feminist-analysis-of-frozen-a694b5713677)

“Elsa’s intricate and messy balancing act between selfishness and selflessness makes her a human being and not reduced to the level of being just a fairytale. She comes across as a human being the audience can relate well too and understand. Like many young women, Elsa was trained to see her potentialities and powers as weaknesses, so her acceptance of her powers makes her s strong feminist. A woman is considered authoritative is she is too bossy and unfeminine if she possesses mental and physical strength. If a Disney princess was presented as showing unprecedented powers, it was deemed to be precarious .” [https://medium.com/@marria.qibtia18/beyond-the-damsel-in-distress-a-feminist-analysis-of-frozen-a694b5713677](https://medium.com/%40marria.qibtia18/beyond-the-damsel-in-distress-a-feminist-analysis-of-frozen-a694b5713677)

“…everyone could identify with Elsa. She wasn’t your typical princess. She wasn’t your typical Disney character. Born with magical powers that she couldn’t quite control, she meant well but caused harm, both on a personal scale (hurting her sister, repeatedly) and a global one (cursing her kingdom, by mistake). She was flawed—actually flawed, in a way that resulted in real mistakes and real consequences. Everyone could interpret her in a unique way and find that the arc of her story applied directly to them.” <https://www.newyorker.com/science/maria-konnikova/how-frozen-took-over-the-world>

“It also, unlike prior Disney films, aces the Bechdel Test: not only are both leads female, but they certainly talk about things other than men.” <https://www.newyorker.com/science/maria-konnikova/how-frozen-took-over-the-world>

“It is the women, in fact, not the men, who save the day, repeatedly—and a selfless act of sacrifice rather than a “kiss of true love” that ends up winning.” <https://www.newyorker.com/science/maria-konnikova/how-frozen-took-over-the-world>

MP2-Moana and female leadership and adventure

“Out of all the recent Disney movies, “[Moana](https://studybreaks.com/culture/3-reasons-you-should-be-excited-for-disneys-moana/)” stands alone because there is no mention of a romantic relationship. Moana is on a quest to explore the ocean and save her people; there is no prince in the movie, Charming or otherwise.” <https://studybreaks.com/tvfilm/disney-princess-movies/>

“Today’s Princesses have not only shed their damsel attitudes, which involves waiting for someone to save them, but have become the heroes of their own story and have found a way to save themselves.” <https://studybreaks.com/tvfilm/disney-princess-movies/>

“Moana has strong bonds with other women in her life ‚Äì primarily her mother and grandmother. Often female characters are pitted against each other in the characteristic evil stepmother vs. good stepdaughter relationship. Here, it is the female relationships that allow Moana to do the unthinkable and cross the reef to save her people.”[**https://www.girlmuseum.org/moana-feminist-disney-princess/**](https://www.girlmuseum.org/moana-feminist-disney-princess/)

““Moana is a more representative princess. While all Disney princess seems to have unbelievable tiny waists and long sinewy limbs, Moana’s body type has more average proportions. Moana’s Polynesian heritage also means children of different races find Moana more representative. Being a more accessible figure helps to minimize negative effects of having solely white, unattainably sized Disney princesses.”[**https://www.girlmuseum.org/moana-feminist-disney-princess/**](https://www.girlmuseum.org/moana-feminist-disney-princess/)

“Moana is not just a princess, she is a leader in her own right. Not only will she become chief of her island one day, but she actively leaves the island to save it, when others are afraid. Ultimately, she returns her people to their original way of life as voyagers.”[**https://www.girlmuseum.org/moana-feminist-disney-princess/**](https://www.girlmuseum.org/moana-feminist-disney-princess/)

“As Moana rushes back to the cave where the ancestors’ boats are stored, she sings a refrain from How Far I’ll go, although this time, more minor notes are utilized in the song and the lyrics change to fit the scene. The use of minor chords changes the original mood of the song from longing to determination, as Moana passionately acts on her desires.” <http://engl1052017.web.unc.edu/unit-1-examples-of-student-work/feminism-in-disneys-moana/>

MP3-Brave and rejecting gender norms

“Many of the newer Disney Princesses challenge this ideal romance; if their films have any romance at all, the relationship between the princesses and their love interests tend to be more realistic and egalitarian.” <https://studybreaks.com/tvfilm/disney-princess-movies/>

“Merida embodies the belief that it is okay to sort your life out first before getting married. Modern society has seen a rise in young people who want to chase their own dreams before finding a significant other and starting a family.” <https://studybreaks.com/tvfilm/disney-princess-movies/>

“Brave successfully illustrates how forcing gender stereotypes on a young woman can negatively affect a family (although not every mom gets turned into a bear during the conflict, I'll admit). But, more importantly, it shows how the mother-daughter relationship can be mended through patience, courage, and love.” <https://www.bustle.com/articles/107099-fact-merida-from-brave-is-disneys-most-feminist-princess>

“But in an era when many girls and women still view singleness as a flaw, I can't applaud enough over the fact that Merida made clear she just wasn't interested in suitors. When discussing the idea of marriage she even noted that, "I may never be ready for this” <https://www.bustle.com/articles/107099-fact-merida-from-brave-is-disneys-most-feminist-princess>

COUNTERARGUMENT

“Merida is strong, capable and courageous. But depressingly, she’s a princess, the most traditional role for female characters in children’s fictions. She’s a rebellious tomboy, but her concerns are still limited to those of a princess, the biggest of which remains, as ever, marriage.” <http://ideas.time.com/2012/06/22/why-pixars-brave-isa-failure-of-female-empowerment/>

“Other than deciding her mother isn’t so bad, Merida doesn’t really grow. She’s simply extended her time as a tomboy, another archetype, less a girl than a stereotype of a kind of girl.” <http://ideas.time.com/2012/06/22/why-pixars-brave-isa-failure-of-female-empowerment/>

“And having a princess protagonist isn’t inherently bad. It’s just that she is so chapter one of what girls can be” <http://ideas.time.com/2012/06/22/why-pixars-brave-isa-failure-of-female-empowerment/>

“Frozen has two women in leading roles. It should pass the Bechdel test without effort; we shouldn’t be surprised. What it lacks, however, that almost every other Disney princess movie has, is a roster of supporting female characters.” [https://medium.com/@directordanic/the-problem-with-false-feminism-7c0bbc7252ef](https://medium.com/%40directordanic/the-problem-with-false-feminism-7c0bbc7252ef)

“When it comes to women I’d look up to or consider role models, especially for young girls, Anna ranks somewhere around Mean Girls’ Karen Smith, and certainly well below bookish Belle, feisty Merida, determined Tiana or even kindly Cinderella.” [https://medium.com/@directordanic/the-problem-with-false-feminism-7c0bbc7252ef](https://medium.com/%40directordanic/the-problem-with-false-feminism-7c0bbc7252ef)

“Just like every other Disney princess, Anna states what she wants very early on. She wants to find “the one”. And, just like every other Disney princess, she gets exactly what she wants. Her renewed relationship with Elsa; the castle gates being opened for good: these are the bonus prizes. Anna’s real goal is true love.” [https://medium.com/@directordanic/the-problem-with-false-feminism-7c0bbc7252ef](https://medium.com/%40directordanic/the-problem-with-false-feminism-7c0bbc7252ef)