

“There is No Unmarked Woman” Prompt Analysis and Critique

Analyze the prompt below and critique:

- A) What general cultural assumptions are made in the prompt and to what degree are these assumptions properly warranted? Discuss.
- B) To what extent might the prompt miss an irony or tonal effect within the essay, thereby rendering the prompt inaccurate or – at the very least – unable to prompt the students to consider the implications of the essay’s thesis on a deep critical level? Explain.

Write an essay exploring whether or not the gender marking that Tannen describes is socially and culturally constructed. That is, does the concept of gender marking apply to a situation where the dress of women or men is socially determined or constrained, such as Middle Eastern countries where women’s choices in dress are restricted by social mores? Does it apply in such situations as a school where uniforms are required, or in the military?

CONNECTIONS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE 50 ESSAYS