**Synthesis Essay Topic Choices and Reading Assignments**

**Instructions:** Choose one of the two topics below and decide on the sources you would like to read for this essay. You will be required to use all of the “Required Essays” and two of the “Additional Essays.”

**Topic Choice 1:** The Media’s Impact on Women (Gender Roles, Female Identity, Perceptions of Women)

Required Essays:
1. “The Smurfette Principle” (544) by Katha Pollitt
2. “Two Ways a Woman Can Get Hurt” (457) by Jean Kilbourne
3. “The Wonder Woman Precedent: Female (Super)Heroism on Trial” (442) by Julie O’Reilly

Additional Essays:
1. “Taking a Bite Out of Twilight” (438) by Carmen Siering
2. “From Multicultural Barbie and the Merchandising of Difference” (527) by Ann Ducille
3. “Love My Neighbor, Hate Myself: The Vicissitudes of Affect in Cosmetic Surgery” (801) by Virginia Blum

**Topic Choice 2:** The Media’s Impact on Children (Worldview, Behavior, Consumer Habits)

Required Essays:
1. “Kid Kustomers” (519) by Eric Schlosser
2. “Childhood in the Age of Global Media” (589) David Buckingham
3. “Lies My Children’s Books Told Me” (563) by Daniel Hade

Additional Essays:
1. “Television as Teacher” (421) by Neil Postman
2. “Harry Potter and the Technology of Magic” (548) by Elizabeth Teare
3. “‘The Power is Yours Planeteers!’: Race, Gender, and Sexuality in Children’s Environmentalist Popular Culture” (574) by Noel Sturgeon

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