Gender Bias in Middle School Classrooms

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Is gender bias still occurring in middle school classrooms? If so, what is the cause of the gender bias and how can it be prevented?
Significance

- See if gender bias is occurring
- Find the cause
- Decide how to eliminate it
- Ensure gender equity in classrooms
Observations

- Hartford Magnet Middle School 6th grade history class
  - Received permission from IRB

- Guidelines from Another Set of Eyes
  - Seating Chart
  - Verbal Flow
  - Tally sheet
Findings

- **Observations:**
  - Average Number Girls: 8.89
  - Average Number Boys: 9.78

- **Called on during class:**
  - Boys: 63.3%
  - Girls: 36.7%
Findings

- Participation
  - Girls
    - Definitions
    - Short answer
    - Called on without raising hand
  - Boys
    - Great confidence
    - Called on when misbehaving
Thesis

- Gender bias still exists

- By Middle School:
  - Internalized gender bias
  - Unwillingness to take risks
  - Lower confidence levels
Past gender bias project

Articles:

“Gender and Developmental Differences in the Academic Study Behaviors of Elementary School Children” by Thomas Hancock

“Gender Differences in High Achieving Students in Math and Science” by Sally M. Reis

“Middle School Advisories: A Vehicle For Developing Students' Gender Self-confidence” by Linda Whitney
Conclusions

- Change in:
  - Confidence levels and self-esteem
  - Study habits
  - Attitude towards achievement

- Results in:
  - Less class participation
  - Inferior learning experience
Recommendations

- Options for teachers:
  - Hold more group activities
  - Self, peer, & student assessment
  - Discussions on gender equity and gender roles with students
  - Team up with school counselor