

Does it make a difference if a leader is a man or a woman? After my learning in this course, I believe that this question must be considered by the leaders themselves. The effectiveness of a leader must be “Gender Related, Not Gender Specific” (Matusak, P12). Two particular articles were of particular importance-Matusak and Hackney; both provided specific detail of traits specific to women.

Much can be gained from the Matusak article in the differences in how men and women are perceived and that there is more than one way to practice successful leadership. In my school many of us women teachers have struggled with classroom behavior and have been working together to try to come up with strategies. Women tend to be highly interactive in their relationships with the team (Matusak, P12). I tend to refrain from being authoritarian and more relationship based. The newly recognized interactive leadership style historically preferred by women, can be valued and rewarded as highly as the traditional authoritarian has been for decades. (Matusak, P12). I may be someone who has not been adequately equipped to take risks due to being socialized to be shy and unassertive (Matusak, P12) . With that said, I can embrace my interactive leadership style and use that knowledge to better lead.

Within the social interaction and cooperation that the women at my school participate in, we can see interactive relationship. Hackney says that for women to develop the confidence and courage to reconstruct leadership theory and practice, they need the support of other women leaders (Hackney, 2003). The key to this particular element is the support. While we have three women leaders in our school, the support we receive is limited. Therefore, we as a team must support one another to help us have the confidence to display and utilize our leadership abilities.

So, does it make a difference if a leader is a man or a woman? I believe that this question must be considered by the leaders themselves and their gender must be considered and embraced. The effectiveness of a leader must be “Gender Related, Not Gender Specific” (Matusak, P12) and both the Matusak and Hackney article provide necessary details for we women in leadership.