

1. Toxic masculinity affects more than just men, it affects everyone. As someone who is questioning their gender, I see both masculine and feminine sides, but not as much as the feminine side. Masculinity affects femininity in a way that controls those who are more feminine or perceived as such. In schools' kids are forced to fit in, find their friends, and be like their friends. For example, as a kid I tended to play with the boys. They saw me as one of the guys since I understood and connected with how they wanted to play; however, I never felt that connection with girls. Girls tended to be more emotional, but boys were the complete opposite; it was who's the tougher one, and who's the strongest. As I grew, I found myself becoming more masculine the more I played with boys. As someone who is biologically female but non-binary, I grew up not wanting to be too girly for the boys or too masculine for the girls. I found myself uncomfortable around more feminine girls, and still am. I'm constantly afraid of them seeing me as too masculine because that's what I was bullied for and still am to this day. I'm 5'11, have short hair, a deeper than normal voice, masculine features, and I dress more masculinity because that's how I grew up and am comfortable. Masculinity sneaks its way into anyone no matter how feminine you are, masculinity will always affect everyone around it.
2. Toxic masculinity affects women far more than we think. Girls are told to not be masculine, and instead to cook, clean, like pink, have long hair, and wear makeup. If you appear more masculine you are less likely to be accepted with other girls, called gay, a boy, or even trans, and you're outcast. The main issue with masculinity for girls is that it teaches them to be fragile and to not talk down to a boy. With that fragility there's a similarity between masculinity and femininity. With femininity,

fragility comes in the notion that a woman is weak, emotional, and needs to be saved by a man, whereas masculinity is fragile in the sense that if men are seen as weak or girly, that masculinity is shattered and has to be rebuilt or proven in order to not lose that perceived masculinity.

3. For my scene I picked the football scene from *Wedding Crashers*. In [this scene](#), the whole family is playing touch football, it's mainly the guys but there is one girl playing. In this scene, Jeremy is constantly being hit super hard by Sack and told by the other guys that he's milking it, or to man up. Jeremy in this case is the not so masculine guy and Sack is the "alpha male". In this scene you can clearly see that Jeremy assumes the archetype of the "man-child" in this movie, he's not strong or buff. In this scene, he is trying to be perceived as tough by getting up after the first hit, and not degrading women like how *The Mask You Live In*, stereotypes him out to be.
4. This scene shows with masculinity, a man should be able to get up after getting hit, or to stop milking the pain he's in. This means society expects that men need to be tough, rough, and to be able to fight back and not be weak, show emotion or pain. This also means for all of society that men are the ones in charge, the ones getting the money, the ones who throw the first punch and the last. This tells women that they need to be the opposite of a man to be attractive. Women need to be kind, sweet, and have emotion to be accepted by men and other women.

*References:*

Siebel Newman, Jennifer, director. *The Mask You Live In*. The Representation Project, 2015, <https://vt-kanopy-com.ezproxy.lib.vt.edu/video/mask-you-live>.

Dobkin, David, director. *Wedding Crashers*. New Line Cinema, 2005, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1FvWK9Q9KpM>.