**Female Representation in the Media Outline**

1. Introduction
2. Attention Getter: Today women are represented drastically different at times and this can vary depending on where you live.
3. The question I will be addressing here is how are women are being represented in Season 1 Episode 1 of The Office?
4. Relevancy to Audience: Especially in regard to international studies, women’s roles have changed in the family, work, and social setting. These changes need to be addressed to update our perspective of women in these various situations.
5. Establish Your Credibility: I have watched The Office series several times and have noticed the various ways that women have been portrayed. It has stood out to me the way that this general population is represented even in the very first episode.
6. Preview Main Points: The main themes that are going to be analyzed dealing with the representation of women in The Office are seen throughout Episode 1. These themes that are observed are high powered positions, sexual harassment in the workplace, and soft-spoken nature.
7. Body
   1. Identification of Media Text
      1. Season 1 episode 1 of The Office gives a variety of themes to analyze regarding female representation in this popular media. The Office is designed to be a “documentary” of a normal paper supply company named Dunder Mifflin. They follow the lives of the employees that work there and along the way several social identities are emphasizes, not always in the best light.
      2. I selected this media because, as I have mentioned, I know this text very well and think it highlights some important issues that can be related back to international studies. Specifically, with the topic I have chosen being female representation, I knew this would be a good source for that.
   2. Theme #1: High Powered Positions
      1. This theme of women holding high powered positions in the workplace is seen throughout The Office, but in different ways. It is seen as something that is not expected and by only showing a few women who do. This sheds light on the fact that this is still not expected of women in society today but does happen.
      2. Some examples of this seen in The Office occur right off the bat in the very first episode of this series.
         * The scene in Season 1 Episode 1 at 1:02, Michael makes a phone call and asks to speak to the manager. At the end of the conversation he says, “Thank you very much sir. You’re a gentleman and a scholar.” After this he discovers that the person he was talking to was a woman and claims that because of her low voice this is why he assumed that. In society today however, this is still seen when people automatically think about people who hold high positions are predominantly male.
         * We also see throughout the first season how the character Pam is portrayed as being the office receptionist. Her character is also highlighting this theme as we see how the people in the office view some positions being “for females” that do not have a lot of power. However, then they also show the other side of this with the character Jane being in charge and working for corporate.
   3. Theme #2: Sexual Harassment
      1. Sexual harassment in the workplace has long been an issue specifically with women. This theme is highlighted several times throughout the many seasons of The Office. Women should not have to deal with this or feel like they cannot speak when this does occur.
      2. An example of this seen in Season 1 Episode 1 of The Office are as follows.
         * Starting at 6:30 of episode 1, Michael is in a meeting with Jane and Pam when Todd Packer calls. Michael answers the phone and puts it on speaker phone. Todd then begins to call Jane “Godzillary” and asks Michael “does the carpet match the drapes.” This is degrading and defiantly something that should not be discussed at work. Jane just sat and did not say anything. For women watching this show at home, some might see this and think that is what we should do when an incident like this occurs. This representation does not seem accurate and up to date because women are increasingly gaining the courage to speak up about these matters.
   4. Theme #3: Soft Spoken Nature
      1. The last theme I observed was the soft-spoken, tentative nature that these women were given in this show. Not all were like this, but I think it was a recurring theme for most.
      2. Some specific examples of this in Season 1 Episode 1 are as follows.
         * At 16:40 we see Pam ask her fiancé Roy if it is okay for her to go out for a drink with the rest of the office and he shuts it down and says they should go home. In this first season of The Office we see Pam several times be quiet and not speak her mind. This shows that she often lets these male authority figures walk all over her.
         * Another example at 18:24, is towards the end of the episode when Michael and Ryan play a prank on Pam and pretend that she is being let go. Pam is upset and doesn’t say too much. Towards the end she is just sitting there crying when Michael finally says that it was a joke. It is not right to joke about something like that with anyone, but here I think it highlights that women can be looked down upon for having emotions and people thinking they can make fun like that.
   5. Interpretation and Evaluation
      1. All of these themes combined paints us a large picture of how women are being represented in this media text and society today. I think this analysis shows that this is an outdated view of women today and the progress they have made.
      2. With women being portrayed in these ways it is degrading and takes away a lot of power from them. The world is ever changing and working towards showing women as equals. Understanding how women are being represented not only in America, but around the world can help us to have a better understanding of the corrections we need to be making to work towards equality.
8. Conclusion
   1. Summarize: Overall, I think The Office was an interesting media to analyze in regard to the way that they represent women on their show. At times they show women being taken for granted, belittled, and made fun of. These issues need to be addressed and corrected moving forward with women all around the world.
   2. Clincher: By shedding light on these tough matters we can strongly move forward in the way that women are portrayed in the media. Together we can update this view of women and show how independent and strong they really are.