**Prompt:** Consider and respond to one or more significant points raised by Louise Gould’s “X” and/or Judith Lorber’s “The Social Construction of Gender.”

**Essay Topic:** Gender is a human production and social construct and restrains women in the real world.

**Outline:**

I. Introductory Paragraph

Judith Lorber wrote about becoming a woman in our society and also focused on gender. Lorber talked about the gender process and its structure and how the paradox of human nature works.

Judith Lorber writes that gender is a a form of process stratification and structure but also talks about sexuality and gender as a paradox to human nature which shows gender is a human production and social construct and suppresses women.”

II. Body Paragraph 1

Gender is a human production and social construct.

B. Give a brief history of gender. The gender of a baby is given at birth and it is easy to know if the baby is a boy or a girl by looking at the genitalia. Society uses clothing and names to mark the babies as male or female. As the children start to develop, the parents treat male and females differently which makes the children behave and feel different. When children become adolescent, then they start to have different feelings, such as avoidance in girls to boys. In society, there is something called the social construction of gender, where females are the ones who take care of the children and men are the workers.

C. Explain how gender is used in modern times. Today, there are many different genders. Gender today is so diverse that there are transvestites and transsexual people who are born to be one gender, but they have always felt they were in the wrong body or the gender that was not how the person really felt. Some examples of this is a woman who feels that she is really a man and she dresses like a man, talks and walks like a man even though her gender is really female.

III. Body Paragraph 2

* A. Transition Sentence: Continue on the topic from Body Paragraph 1. Furthermore, gender is a way of human production and social construct by stratification and process. According to Lorber “As part of a stratification system, gender ranks men above women of the same race and class” (Lorber 69). This shows that men are above women in modern times when we all should be equal. But it also shows the point of view of society which says that one should be the dominant gender and the other one should be in a lower position. The importance of the idea of gender in modern society is very important because women are also people and should be treated as equal.

B. Give a summary about the importance of the idea of gender in modern society

C. What are the standards of gender in modern times? Give data, outline the “rules”, etc.

Men have the chance to have more economic resources (education and jobs) than women. In poor groups, both women and men even more equal because the women are able to have an education and jobs which the men are not able to get (Almquist 1987) Today, women are the ones that teach and influence the development and behavior of the children when they are at the adolescent stage. But, most people follow the way men and women should behave in society because of the norms and expectation to find an identity.

IV. Body Paragraph 3

A. Transition Sentence: Introduce the ways that gender defines women

B. Talk about the hierarchy of men and women in a patriarchal society.

C. What power does gender have in our society? In what ways are women suppressed?

V. Body Paragraph 4

A. Topic Sentence: Explore gender as it relates to the home versus the workplace

B. What progress has been made in modern times to close the divide between men and women in both settings?

C. In what ways can society still improve? Where are women still facing the most suppression/oppression?

VI. Conclusion Paragraph

A. Topic Sentence: Give a sentence or two reiterating your original thesis from the first paragraph.

B. Give a conclusion statement that gets more broad/less specific (“funnel” outwards from the topic”).

Good Quotes to Use:

* “As a social institution, gender is one of the major ways that human beings organize their lives” (Lorber 68).
* “Everyday gendered interactions build gender into the family, the work process, and other organizations and institutions, which in turn reinforce gender expectations for individuals” (Lorber 69).
* “As part of a stratification system, gender ranks men above women of the same race and class” (Lorber 69).
* “Society vary in the extent of the inequality in social status of women and men members, but… ‘woman’ is usually held in lesser esteem than the status ‘man’” (Lorber 69).
* “Most people…go along with their society’s prescriptions for those of their gender status, because the norms and expectations get build into their sense of worth and identity” (Lorber 70).