

PSCY132
Summer Session 1, 2013
Extra credit 1:

Concerning the Brizendine chapter, copy and paste the questions below into an email (mgorman@ucsd.edu) your answers to me. Be sure to put Hormones Extra Credit in the subject line. Please put answers below each question.

What kinds of words does Brizendine use to describe the relationship between hormones/brains/behavior? What does her word choice reflect about how she perceives the strength of hormone effects. Give examples.

Without worrying about the source, provide an example where Brizendine cites a specific factual and generalizable claim about sex differences (i.e., something that was supposedly measured in groups of subjects and is not an anecdote).

How does Brizendine use the example you cited above to support or draw a more general conclusion? How reasonable is that generalization?

Try to fact-check one of Brizendine's specific, verifiable claims. What do you find? What is the reliability of your source? www.pubmed.gov is an excellent source for finding relevant scientific publications.

Are there claims made by Brizendine that you think could not be reasonably assessed scientifically, either because they could not be measured, they are not precisely stated, or for other reasons? Give 1-2 examples.

Can you find an example where Brizendine infers that one type of causal effect rules out other types of causal effects?

What statements made by Brizendine best reflect a scientific approach to understanding gender differences? Explain.

What statements made by Brizendine best reflect a non-scientific approach to understanding gender differences? Explain.

Which single piece of scientific evidence cited by Brizendine – assuming it is valid – impresses you as evidence for a hormonally-driven sex difference in personality or behavior?

How relevant does Brizendine consider animal studies for understanding humans? Explain