**Freedom and Stereotypes: Media Representations of Gender**

**Instructor: Elizaveta Friesem**

Lesson date & time:

October 15, 2014 (90 minute long)

Lesson description:

During this lesson, we will talk about the way films, TV programs, books and video games portray men and women in different countries. We will apply critical questions of media literacy education to analyze media texts that portray men and women. We will reflect on the connection between media representations and the role of men and women in cultures around the world. Finally, we will discuss how gender stereotypes might limit people’s freedom.

Terms that we will use:

Media, media representation, gender, stereotype, femininity, masculinity.

Main question:

How might media stereotypes limit people’s freedom?

Necessary materials and equipment: Each class should have a microphone that will let students in the audience participate in the discussion.

Each student needs to have the printout *Five Critical Questions of Media Literacy*.

IMPORTANT: Preparing for the lesson (each student should follow these instructions):

* Think of your favorite character in a film, book, TV program or video game. Be prepared to name this character, describe her or him, and explain why this is your favorite character.
* Be prepared to give your definition for the term “stereotype”. Think of several examples of stereotypes.
* Be prepared to describe what roles men and women play in your culture and give your opinion about these roles.
* Print out the *Five Critical Questions of Media Literacy* (each student must have one printout).

Home assignment:

Each students records a video reflection about what she or he has learned during this lecture (maximum 5 minutes long). In the beginning of the video introduce yourself and tell what country you are from. The video should answer the following questions:

1. How do the media usually portray men and women and why (give examples)?
2. What gender stereotypes do you notice in media texts?
3. Why is it important to talk about gender stereotypes in the media?
4. Would you like the media to portray women and men differently, and if so, how?

Upload the video to YouTube and send the link to the Global Class organizers.