

# “BOSSY” WOMEN: GENDER BIAS AND WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP

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## Leading Question

How do stereotypes about leadership affect women’s behavior throughout their lives?

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## Watch the video

<https://youtu.be/twwEG11F0lo>

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**Communicating stereotypes about how girls should behave starts at a very young age. It is important to be conscious of any bias we may have toward girls exhibiting leadership traits so that our words or actions do not, even unintentionally, send the message that such behavior is inappropriate.**

1. Do you think that Sheryl Sandberg’s siblings’ story would be considered funny if she was a man? Can you imagine it being told at a wedding toast? How might it have been different?
  2. Have you ever been called “bossy”? What was the context? How did it make you feel?
  3. Do you know girls or women you consider “bossy”? What behaviors or traits made you think of them that way?
  4. List the qualities that you associate with effective leadership. Are any of those behaviors or traits the same as the traits you considered “bossy” in question #3?
  5. Where do you sit in work meetings? Who sits at the head of the table or the front of the room? Why do you think this is?
  6. Sheryl’s story suggests that her leadership qualities were in evidence at a very young age. Do you think such traits are innate or learned?
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## START SOMETHING

How can leadership qualities be fostered in young girls? Teenage girls? Working women? What actions can you take to help and how can you get boys and men involved?

## BIOGRAPHY

### Sheryl Sandberg

Sheryl Sandberg is the chief operating officer of Facebook and the first woman to serve on its board. She is also the founder of Leanin.org. Previously, Sandberg was vice president of global online sales and operations at Google and was involved in launching Google’s philanthropic arm, Google.org. Before Google, Sandberg served as chief of staff for United States Secretary of the Treasury Lawrence Summers. In 2012, she was named in the Time 100 as one of the most influential people in the world. She has both a BA in economics and an MBA from Harvard.

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## RESOURCES

Watch all nine videos of Women’s Work:

Perspectives on Gender in Tech

<http://www.computerhistory.org/exponential/women-work/>

CHM Revolutionaries: Lean In- Women, Work, and the Will to Lead with Author Sheryl Sandberg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4WWumJF1dEY&t=>

Lean In

<https://leanin.org/>

### About

This discussion guide is part of the series Women’s Work: Perspectives on Gender in Tech, nine videos produced by the Exponential Center at the Computer History Museum. The center is dedicated to capturing the legacy and advancing the future of entrepreneurship and innovation in Silicon Valley and around the world.

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