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## The Barbie Benefit

### Abstract

Barbie is a positive influence one young girls as long as they are taught from an early age that she is not real and are taught to love themselves and their bodies no matter what. Barbie is a very respectable career woman, having over one hundred thirty jobs in her fifty-five years. She is obviously smart considering she has been a doctor, a teacher, and a veterinarian. She comes in many different ethnicities and cultures so she is very diverse and she sparks a child's imagination with her endless opportunities and storylines. In the end, she is just a doll and if you approach it in the right way, she will be a positive role model for any child.

### I. Introduction

Barbie is one of the best role models a young girl can have. She has had many different kinds of jobs showing young girls that there are endless possibilities, she sparks young girl's imaginations with her endless outfits and props, she comes in many different ethnicities and cultures, and is extremely warm-hearted and positive.

### II. Career Woman

- A. Does Different Jobs
- B. Breaks Gender Barriers
- C. Stays Home With Children
- D. Supports Herself and Family

### III. Personality

- A. Nice
- B. Good Friend

### IV. She is Diverse

- A. Many Different Ethnicities
- B. Many Different Cultures
- C. Many Different Types of People

### V. Imagination

- A. Doesn't Come With a Fixed Story Line
- B. Does Let Kids Use Their Imagination

### VI. Parent approach

- A. Teach Children That Barbie Isn't Real
- B. Teach Children About Positive Self Image
- C. Teach Children To Love Themselves and Their Bodies

### VII. Conclusion

Barbie is role model every girl can relate to. She has had many different jobs, she is very diverse, she has a great personality, and she gives young girls the opportunity to use their imagination, which is rare with all of the new toys coming out that are electronic or already have a set story that the child must follow.

This is a very well-formatted cover page. It includes everything requested, including a catchy title!

You perhaps do not have to go so far in depth with the introduction and conclusion. Instead, offer just the thesis and re-stated thesis. The outline doesn't have to reveal too much.

## Introduction

*“My whole philosophy of Barbie was that through the doll the little girl could be anything she wanted to be. Barbie always represented the fact that a woman has choices.”* (Ruth, creator of Barbie) Barbie has been inspiring young girls to be who they want to be since nineteen fifty-nine and hopefully will continue to for many more generations. **Barbie is one of the best role models a young girl can have. She has had many different kinds of jobs showing young girls that there are endless possibilities, she sparks young girl’s imaginations with her endless outfits and props, she comes in many different ethnicities and cultures, and is extremely warm-hearted and positive.** So why are parents keeping their children away from Barbie?

The lead is ok, though not terribly strong. It perhaps needs a little more preamble – more of a lead to your eventual thesis.

## Career Woman

Parents are keeping their children away from Barbie because she promotes the idea of becoming a stereotypical dumb blonde, seriously? Barbie has a resume thicker than a phone book. *Barbie has had over one hundred thirty different jobs. Barbie proves that you can be anything you want to be.* (Mattel) *She promotes education by becoming a doctor, veterinarian, nurse, and teacher. She promotes gender equality by becoming president, a NASCAR driver, and joins the military. She promotes a healthy lifestyle, contrary to what most people think, by becoming a professional athlete, yoga and fitness instructor, and dancer.* (Spellman) To name a few more, she has also gone to the moon, four years before Neil Armstrong, as an astronaut. She was a pilot, a rock star, and a computer engineer. Barbie has lived almost every dream job a little girl could have, and shown them that their dreams were possible. She is strong and independent, providing for herself with her own income and always sold separately from Ken, her boyfriend. This shows girls that they are valuable on their own, a valuable lesson for young girls who may think they need a boyfriend or husband to take care of them like some stereotypes say.

Strong argument here. Well-done.

## Personality

Parents can't argue with the fact that Barbie dolls are subject to the child's imagination. The child always chooses what Barbie says and how she acts, but she comes to life in her movie series. In the movies Barbie has the perfect personality for children to aspire for. She is nice, always helpful and she always succeeds because she always works hard. *Barbie has starred in many movies as a fairy, mermaid, princess, a regular girl, and more.* (1. List of Barbie movies online) *Barbie movie viewers describe her as a true friend. She teaches them lessons they wish to teach to their own children someday and she's kind.* (2. List of Barbie movies online) Wouldn't you want your child to be described like this one day?

Great use of the rhetorical question here. It is a very strong persuasive tactic and – in this case – a very emotional one as well.

## She is Diverse

Parents may think that Barbie only comes in Caucasian, with blonde hair and blue eyes, but they would be wrong. Barbie is not racist and does not discriminate. *Barbie represents over forty different nationalities.* (1.Barbie) *Also, there is a Barbie collection called "World Culture" which contains many different Barbie's such as Inuit Legend, Maiko, Canada Barbie, Morocco Barbie, UK Barbie, and much more.* (More world culture) There are also many different types Barbie's to fit different types of people so as not to sway the child towards trying to be one type of person. For example, there is a gothic Barbie, a prep Barbie, and athletic Barbie, and nerdy Barbie, and that's not even all of them. The best part is, Barbie doesn't portray any certain Barbie as better than the other so the child won't think any type of person is better or more beautiful than the other.

See how I've highlighted the 'Barbie's' above? This is to indicate that you do not make Barbie plural by adding 's. You simply add the s (Barbies).

In fact, you NEVER make words plural by adding 's. EVER.

## Imagination

So what did she say? If it is important enough to introduce, then include her words.

*Dr. Kate Roberts, a school psychologist, thinks that Barbie's inspire joy and imagination. (1.Roberts)*

Samantha Schoech, author of, *The Bigger the Better, the Tighter the Sweater: 21 Funny Women on Beauty, Body Image, and Other Hazards of Being Female*, says,

*"I've always thought Barbie was a tool for imagination and creative play that could awaken the storyteller in a young girl. Unlike those Disney princesses, she doesn't come with a script. There are no rules to follow with Barbie, so she can do whatever and be whatever you want."*(Schoech)

If these women, who are involved with children and who write books about body image, can support Barbie, why can't parents of young children? Barbie is a good old fashion toy, not electronic. She doesn't speak so the child must make up her own scenarios, her own personalities for the Barbie's, and her own script. This really works out the imagination and to help expand it, Barbie has several props. She has a house, a car, three sisters, over fifty different pets, a pool, a runway, and many outfits for different occasions. The possibilities are endless with Barbie.

## Parents Approach

Parents overthink everything when it comes to their children. Do they really think their four year old is looking at Barbie thinking, "I wish I was that skinny"? No, they are thinking, "Wow, this doll is always ready to play and never says no." Young girls just want a friend to play with and Barbie is always there for them. Annalisa Barbieri says, *"We are in danger of looking at a child's toy through an adult's microscope and, of course, seeing all the wrong things."* (Barbieri) What parents sometimes don't realise is that they can protect their child from these bad things such as an unrealistic body type or harmful

influences. *More than anyone else, parents influence a child's self-esteem and the way they see themselves.* ("Self-esteem: How to Help Children & Teens Develop a Positive Self-image") If you teach your child that Barbie is fake and unrealistic than she will know that she shouldn't hope to look like her someday. If you teach your child to love herself the way she is than she will always know she is beautiful. Dr. Kate Roberts says, "*We have to teach our children that Barbie not part of 'real life' she's a toy and not something to emulate.*" (2.Roberts) Also to help build your child's self-confidence and self-esteem *teach them to practice positive self-talk. This is important because it forces the child to see and remember all of the things they like about themselves and their bodies.* (Self-esteem)

Good use of your research here, though you did not follow the three steps totally by ignoring the follow-up.

## Conclusion

**Barbie is role model every girl can relate to. She has had many different jobs, she is very diverse, she has a great personality, and she gives young girls the opportunity to use their imagination, which is rare with all of the new toys coming out that are electronic or already have a set story that the child must follow.** If we look too closely at anything, we will find something wrong with it. Should we take away our children's T.V or their magazines, keep them locked indoors? Even the classic baby doll, that almost every girl has, gives the impression that every girl should become a mother. Do we take those away too? Do we stop telling our kids the classic fairy tales? *Snow white teaches us that women are jealous of other women's beauty, you can't trust even the people closest to you, if you are beautiful a prince will rescue and love you, beauties are good, and women who aren't beautiful are mean and cruel.* (Graydon) No, stop over analyzing. Stop thinking like an adult, because your child isn't; she doesn't have the same regrets and insecurities as you do yet. All you can do is try to build up her self-worth so she isn't too impressionable by everything in the world. Barbie isn't going to make your child hate herself, wear too much make-up, or get an eating disorder. As the wise people who write for the Barbie website say, "*She's a doll, people.*" (2.Barbie)

A strong conclusion to a pretty solid piece of writing – the first one ever written in Barbie's defence! It was a unique and just right in terms of tone and support. Great piece of writing.

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<<http://childdevelopmentinfo.com/child-development/self-esteem/>>.

Any reason why these entries do not take up the entire line? Only the web address (the URL) needs its own line. Otherwise, the entries need to be formatted properly. They could all fit on one page if you did that.

2. Roberts, Dr. Kate. "Despite Her Unreal Proportions, Can Barbie Dolls Be Good for Girls?." Empowering Parents. N.p., 9 05 2014. Web. 8 Jun 2014.  
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