

# Just Like a Girl

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Ever heard of the phrase “You do that like a girl” or the line, “You play ball like a girl” from the movie *The Sandlot*? Everyone at one point in their life has probably heard that phrase or experienced that in their life, more so if they’re a girl.

The phrase “like a girl” was commonly noticed when the new Always ad came out, showing different gender stereotypes in 2015. During the commercial different age groups of girls were told to perform tasks “like a girl” and then boys were told the same thing. The point of the commercial was to prove that girls can do anything boys can do and if girls have the confidence to prove it they can change the way the world thinks one step at a time.

The stereotypes for women can be anything from people putting them in groups that say they aren’t as intelligent, to assuming they aren’t a part of authority because they can’t handle all the stress, and they’re more sensitive than men.

Isabel Camacho a junior at North, said “At the moment people haven’t voted for a woman as a president and some say that’s because they think they’d have mood swings or do something related to ‘acting like a girl.’”

Women empowerment has been a very controversial topic since 1920, when women were given the right to vote. To this day, there are different factors being decided if they

should have as much power as men and if they should be given the same opportunities that men have. If females are being stereotyped at a young age and grow up always being put in categories, it can damage their self-esteem. It can also cause a lack in confidence as they grow into their teen years when they are truly developing. But it would make a big difference if people would change society and make it so women are more equally associated with men.

Camacho said, “I think it’s important to break the stereotype because when we’re labeled with this stereotype, it limits us and makes girls growing up think that they can’t do something like play football because it’s not girly or for a girl. It would change society in a manner that people would change their way of thinking and change the way they treat women.”

Another topic that comes up with men vs. women is; Who is the better driver, male or female? According to [crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov](http://crashstats.nhtsa.dot.gov), which is a website that had taken a study in 1996-2006 showing the comparison of crash fatalities by their sex and age group, proved women actually get in less car crashes than men. The males’ accidents were higher in all age groups compared to women but age groups with the most male accidents were 16-20, 21-25 and over 65 years of age.

While many believe that women are worse drivers than men, some also believe men are higher educated, according to statistics they would be wrong. Recently proven in 2015 women are now more likely to have a college degree than men according to [time.com](http://time.com), which is a website with statistics showing women earning more college degrees nationally.

Statistics have changed over the past few years and women are changing the way society is stereotyping women. “Young women are driving the change. In the 25-34 age group, 37.5% of women have a bachelor’s degree or higher, while only 29.5% of men do. (Rates of college attainment for men and

women in this age group are increasing roughly equally.) But for the over-65 crowd, only 20.3% of women have such degrees, compared to 30.6% of men” says [time.com](http://time.com)

As society begins to evolve and develop the stereotypes begin to dwindle. People are using their voices to empower those who are affected by these stereotypes. This change in society is helping to better our world by opening minds.

**What does it mean to do something “like a girl”? Women are often stereotyped just because they’re a girl. Do you think it’s important to break this stereotype and why?**

**Kayden Schnathorst, Freshman:**

I feel when people tell each other they do anything “like a girl” it’s always offensive and supposed to be a mocking of “weak” or “pathetic”. It doesn’t personally offend me but it’s meant to be derogatory. Women are often stereotyped to be “whores” if they dress a certain way, or called dykes because their hair is short (I speak from personal experience) and I feel that’s ridiculous. I believe all form of stereotypes and mockery should be broken.

**Nicole Masteller, Senior:**

Yes, because women have proved that they are just as equal men, they can physically and mentally do just as much as they can and they have done this over history, time and time again. I believe we as humans should all be treated with the same opportunity and respect if they work for it.

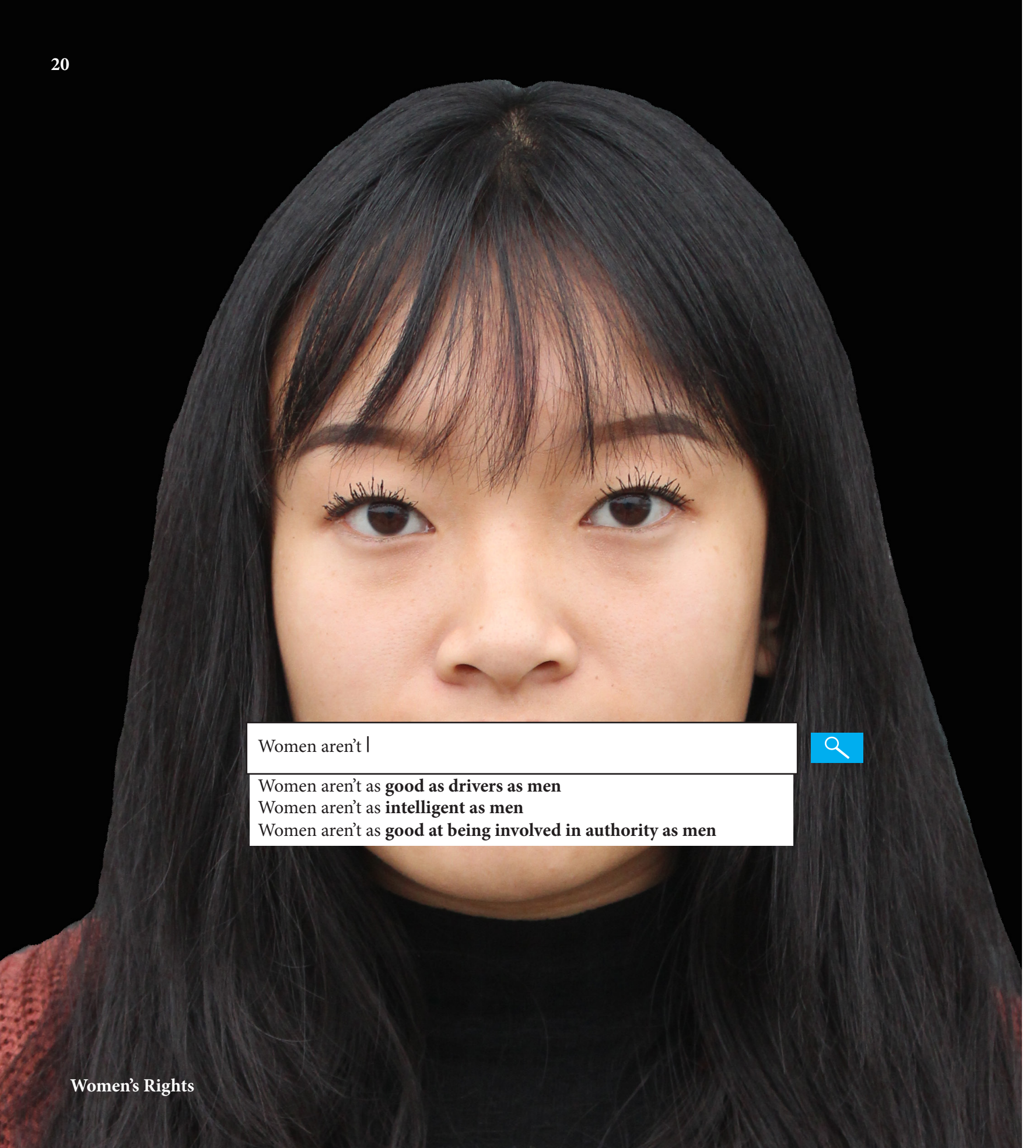
**Valeria Guerra-Ceron, Senior:**

For me, to do something “like a girl” means to do something with power and confidence, because women are strong. This phrase is often used to bring women down because we’re seen as the weaker gender, or we can’t do the same thing a man can do, but I don’t see it that way. It’s very important to break this stereotype because women shouldn’t be treated differently just because of our gender, we can definitely do everything a man can do.

**Rosemary Galdamez, Senior:**

The phrase “like a girl” is something I don’t feel offended by being told that, but it bothers me that it’s used as an offense. The phrase is often used as a way to say you do something poorly or weak. It is very important to break that stereotype because as girls grow up they are faced with the stereotype that they are weak and that they are expected to behave not like a girl which can impact the way they view themselves and their self-esteem.

**Design: L.Christensen/Photo Credit: M. Bohall**



Women aren't |



Women aren't as **good as drivers** as men

Women aren't as **intelligent** as men

Women aren't as **good at being involved in authority** as men