

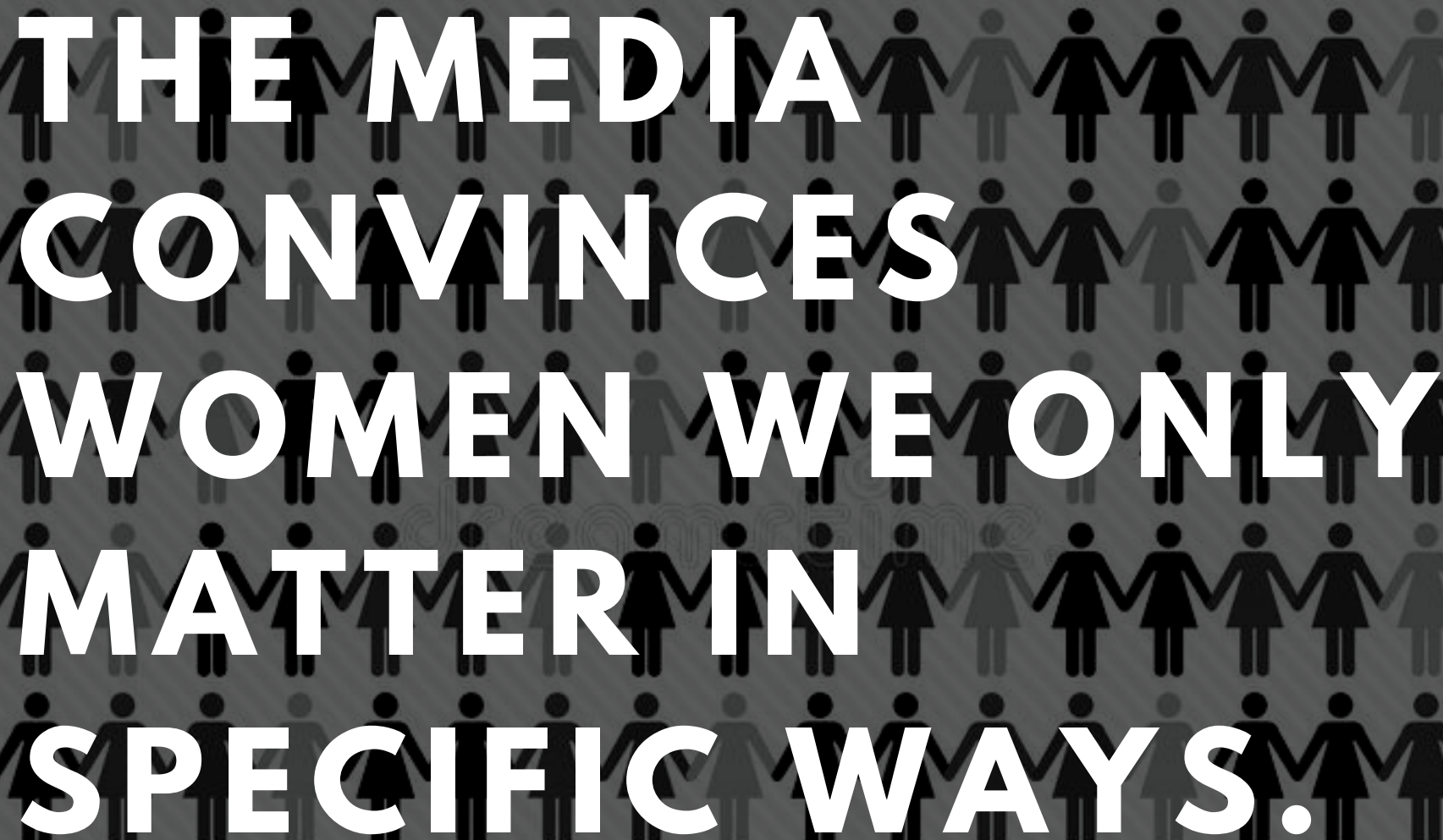


# MASS MEDIA

AN OPPRESSIVE MACHINE

JAYLON MENSALVAS

TSOC 455  
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**THE MEDIA  
CONVINCES  
WOMEN WE ONLY  
MATTER IN  
SPECIFIC WAYS.**

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**DEAD, BEAUTIFUL  
WOMEN AS MAIN  
CHARACTERS**

# DEAD GIRL TROPE

Movies and television series have increasingly used dead women as the center of their plots or even as a main character. Some plots can make viewers believe that women are more interesting dead, especially mystery or drama genres. Horror genres can make women seem preferable dead, or even still a threat after death. This kind of plot is also problematic in that they focus on images and acts of violence against women. Women are powerless in their roles, and are often subject to control by men.

# EXAMPLES

## OF THE DEAD GIRL

### TROPE

1

#### **PRETTY LITTLE LIARS (2010)**

"Queen Bee"  
Alison goes missing, and her friends start receiving messages from the mysterious "A" who threatens to reveal their secrets.

2

#### **TWIN PEAKS (1990)**

Homecoming queen Laura is murdered and an FBI agent must uncover the truth, only to find that she was living a double life.

3

#### **CORPSE BRIDE (2005)**

Emily was murdered on the night of her wedding, and later meets Victor in the Land of the Dead and claims he is her new husband.



## WE MATTER IF WE'RE BEAUTIFUL

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Media focuses on women that embody feminine beauty ideals such as an hourglass figure and symmetrical facial features.

## WE MATTER IF WE ARE SUBMISSIVE

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Media tends to focus on women that aren't too ambitious, and therefore not a threat to men. Women are portrayed as trophy wives and stay at home moms.





# HOW ARE WOMEN AFFECTED

As a result of this kind of representation in media, women suffer from more eating disorders and lack self-esteem. They feel as if their worth is tied to their bodies and their relationships with men. How women view themselves affect their mental, social, and emotional health in their personal and professional lives.

90%

Of women want to change at least one aspect of their physical appearance



81%

Of 10-year old girls are afraid of being fat



25%

Of college-age women have an eating disorder



WE MATTER.

THANK YOU