



**KAITLIN HOPKINS**

*B.A. Psychology*

*Minors: Philosophy,  
Communication Studies,  
University Honors*

*Mentor:*

*John Flowers, Ph.D.*

Beckman 210

**I Can't Do It: Stereotype Threat  
and Its Relevance to the Classroom**

Stereotype threat is a phenomenon by which individuals experience poorer performance on a task when a relevant stereotype is made salient to them. Cognitive test performance can suffer greatly at the hands of a threatening stereotype, and this sort of performance deficit is illustrated in the achievement gap in the education system of the United States. Urban areas consistently show lower scores on standardized tests, and our school system is failing these students. This project will analyze how stereotype threat plays a part in this and how we can try to solve it, creating a better education system in America.