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Graduate School Research Symposium
Student Application

If you are working in a group, please submit one registration form. The student who will be the group contact should have his or her information on the first page; all other group members' information should be attached on additional pages in a Word document.

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Degree: Master of Arts Current GPA: 3.9

Title of Project: What do early adolescent girls like and dislike about their appearance? A qualitative and quantitative examination of body appreciation among ethnically diverse girls

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The first and last names of any additional team members:

Have you presented your research/creative project at a conference or event in your field?

Yes No

If yes, what conference/event? (Include, name, location, date):

Attach your abstract (250 words max, doc or docx format):



Working in a group? Attach additional information (doc or docx format):

Erika Frick

Dr. Charlotte Markey

What do early adolescent girls like and dislike about their appearance? A qualitative and quantitative examination of body appreciation among ethnically diverse girls

Abstract

The current study examined early adolescent girls' perceptions of their appearance and their body appreciation. Several research questions have been explored: Do girls of this age experience body appreciation? What physical features are girls most likely to identify as the features they most like and dislike about their appearance? Is liking or disliking of certain physical features most likely to contribute to or detract from body appreciation? Are there differences in these experiences by race/ethnicity? The participants were 142 early adolescent girls (M age = 12.06, SD = 1.22, range = 10-15 years). Girls' body image was measured using the Body Appreciation Scale-2 (Tylka & Wood-Barcalow, 2015) and two open-ended questions about the physical features they like and dislike. Results indicate that preadolescent girls' body appreciation is similar to that of adult women's and that girls' who report liking their body features are more likely to have higher body appreciation than girls who report liking their facial features. No significant ethnic differences in body appreciation were found. This study contributes to the body image literature by examining these constructs among an ethnically diverse sample, a younger sample than is typically studied, and through the inclusion of qualitative responses from girls.

Key words: body appreciation, body image, early adolescents, race/ethnicity, qualitative research