# Stereotype Vulnerabilty

Stereotype vulnerability is a phenomenon that affects people of all races and gender at times of feeling inferior. If a negative stereotype is placed upon a certain aspect of a person's being, that stereotype places unneeded pressure on the individual. The United States is a stigma filled society. Most Americans have been exposed to some for of racial, gender and ethnicity during their socialization process. These stigmas become embedded within a person regardless of whether they are victim or an innocent bystander. When being tested, the victims are not only fell as if their abilities are being tested, they also feel as if they are representing all of those who share their stigma. This extra pressure affects the individual's performance thus creating more stereotypes leading to a nasty cycle of pressure and ignorance. Studies have shown that Stereotype vulnerability exists not just with minorities but with white males as well. Perhaps with awareness the cycle can be broken.

**More on Stereotype Vulnerability:**
http://fairtest.org/examarts/fall95/vulnerab.html
http://www.nsf.gov/sbe/srs/wmpdse94/chap5/sidebar4.htm#fn11
http://www.law.nyu.edu/workways/theoretical/stereotype/stereovul.html