Women in Fitzgerald's Fiction

MLA Citation:

Thesis:
"F. Scott Fitzgerald is best known as a chronicler of the 1920s and as the writer who, more than any other, identified, delineated, and popularized the female representative of that era, the flapper" (Sanderson 143).

Main Points:
● "...offer the public an image of a modern young woman who was spoiled, sexually liberated, self-centered, fun-loving, and magnetic" (Sanderson 143).
● "It is a commonplace that life in the Victorian era was divided into two spheres, the public, economic sphere run by men, and the private, domestic sphere run by women" (Sanderson 144).
● "As women entered the public sphere in the late nineteenth century, as American culture became feminized, there was a variety of male reactions" (Sanderson 145).
● "Starting before World War I, and then accentuated by the war and by post-war prosperity, this revolutionary change 'in manners and morals' downplayed the importance of self-denial and social justice and glorified 'individual gratification'" (Sanderson 145).
● "The Gibson Girl was a beautiful young woman, tanned and fit, whose short skirt allowed her to be athletic – wholesome rather than sexual, self-fulfilling rather than dependent on male desires" (Sanderson 146).
● "His adulterous affair with Dorothy Raycroft, 'a girl of a lower class,' is part of the vulgar reality he wants to deny" (Sanderson 147).
● "And then, suddenly, Fitzgerald was a great success. In fall 1919, after Scribners editor Maxwell Perkins accepted This Side of Paradise for publication, Zelda and Scott renewed their engagement..." (Sanderson 148).
● "Nevertheless, Fitzgerald’s continued popularity may be due precisely to the presence of both “female” and “male” tendencies in his works" (Sanderson 161).
● "The Great Gatsby thus defends the importance of inspirational symbols and the male tendency to see women as such symbols, perhaps especially during a time of personal, sexual, familial, and national disintegration" (Sanderson 156).

Connections:
The author uses direct quotes from reliable sources, including Fitzgerald itself, making it the reasoning valid. The evidence in the article is sufficient. All of the author's claims are backed up by a quote or connection that further explains it. However, the evidence does not overwhelm the article and the author's views on how Fitzgerald incorporates women and how society viewed them before, during and after the 1920s.