

SPRINGBOARDS FOR DISCUSSING SEXISM

Student Instructions: This page contains springboards for you to dive into a discussion of sexism. Feel free to discuss the questions in any order or create springboards of your own. The key thing is not to answer all the questions, but to have a good discussion in which everyone participates fully.

1. How much sexism is there in today's society? In general, is the amount of sexism increasing or decreasing?
2. How widespread is sexism among females?
3. Is it sexist to ignore the role females play in perpetuating sexism?
4. If you believe that racist advertisements, literature, and public speeches should be outlawed, do you feel the same about sexist advertisements, literature, and speeches? And what about pornography?
5. Is there such a thing as nonviolent pornography, or is pornography inherently violent?
6. Are beauty contests such as the Miss America Pageant a form of pornography?
7. Do media images influence whether you see someone as sexually attractive? If so, how do you feel about corporations having this influence on you?
8. Do you think it's sexist to advocate different gender roles for girls and boys?
9. Why does the English language use masculine and feminine versions of words such as blond/blonde, host/hostess, and actor/actress? Is it sexist to use such words?
10. Is it sexist for women to attend an all-female bridal shower?
11. Is the practice of having all-male fraternities sexist? And if so, is it sexist to offer all-female campus housing, or is that different?
12. Question for male students: What do you think the most difficult thing is about being a woman in today's society?
13. Question for female students: In your experience, what is the most difficult thing about being a woman in today's society?
14. Question for female students: What do you think the most difficult thing is about being a man in today's society?
15. Question for male students: In your experience, what is the most difficult thing about being a man in today's society?