

## Springboards for Discussing PREJUDICE, STEREOTYPING, DISCRIMINATION

**Student Instructions:** This page contains an assortment of springboards for you to dive into a discussion of prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination. 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. Is it possible to be free of prejudice? Have you ever met anyone who was?
2. Are *you* prejudiced? If so, what are some recent instances in which you behaved in a prejudiced way? If not, how do you know that you're not prejudiced?
3. If you've behaved in a prejudiced way, what caused the prejudice, and what might reduce it? How did other people respond to your behavior?
4. If a close friend or family member were to make a prejudiced comment, would you protest? Why or why not? What about a stranger or acquaintance -- would you respond in that situation?
5. If you were to make a prejudiced comment at a party or among a group of friends, would your friends say something?
6. Does the categorization of people always result in prejudice? What about categorizing people in a positive way -- does that result in prejudice?
7. Are stereotypes ever a good thing? Have you ever tried to get people to stereotype you, either positively or negatively?
8. Does the very categorization of people -- for example, as female, a college student, African-American, or Texan -- necessarily rob them of individuality?
9. In general, which forms of prejudice seem to be declining over time, and which forms seem to be persisting or increasing?
10. Which forms of prejudice most socially acceptable, and which are least acceptable? Why are some forms more acceptable than others?
11. When, if ever, is it best to remain colorblind to race and ethnicity? When, if ever, is it best to celebrate multicultural differences? Do the goals of colorblindness and multiculturalism conflict with each other?
12. What do you think the most difficult aspect is of being a racial, ethnic, or religious minority member? What is the most difficult aspect of being a majority group member?



## 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. 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?
3. Is there such a thing as nonviolent pornography, or is pornography inherently violent?
4. Do you think it's sexist to advocate different gender roles for girls and boys?
5. Question for male students: What do you think the most difficult thing is about being a woman in today's society?
6. Question for female students: In your experience, what is the most difficult thing about being a woman in today's society?
7. Question for female students: What do you think the most difficult thing is about being a man in today's society?
8. Question for male students: In your experience, what is the most difficult thing about being a man in today's society?



## Springboards for Discussing CONTEMPORARY RACISM

**Student Instructions:** This page contains springboards for you to dive into a discussion of racism. 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. Although old-style racism and the use of racial epithets have gradually diminished in many countries, subtler forms of racism have flourished. Is this change an improvement?
2. Can people of color be racist?
3. Although many people are quick to detect and condemn instances of racial prejudice, White privilege often goes undetected. What explains this difference?
4. What is the difference between equal opportunity and affirmative action? Do the two policies contradict each other?
5. Is it racist for athletic teams to use names such as the Indians, Braves, and Redskins? If not, would it be okay to use team names such as the Hispanics, Chinamen, or Blackskins?
6. Do you support or oppose the idea of racial profiling (for example, greater scrutiny of Arab passengers) in airport security?



## Springboards for Discussing HETEROSEXISM

**Student Instructions:** This page contains springboards for you to dive into a discussion of heterosexism. 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. What is the difference between heterosexism and homophobia?
2. Can homosexuals change their sexual orientation if they want to? And if so, can heterosexuals do the same?
3. Should discrimination based on sexual orientation be outlawed to the same extent as discrimination based on race and sex?
4. Are equal rights possible when homosexual behavior is illegal?
5. If people believe in a literal interpretation of the Bible, is it prejudiced for them to:
  - regard homosexual behavior as sinful?
  - view homosexuality as an abomination before God?
  - support the death penalty for homosexual behavior?
6. Is it okay for people in the gay community to use terms such as "fag," "dyke," and "queen" while at the same time criticizing the use of these terms in the straight community?
7. How have the gay community and gay rights movement improved the life of non-homosexuals?
8. How have heterosexism and homophobia hurt non-homosexuals?