

HOW DO YOU FEEL AND WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Understanding Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Experiences:

Clarifying our attitudes and beliefs helps us to become more conscious of what we feel. The purpose of responding to the following items is not to try to change your attitudes and values. There are no right or wrong answers. The important thing is that you understand what you personally feel, not what you think you should feel. You might want to ask yourself why you feel the way you do.

SA = Strongly Agree A = Agree N = Neutral D = Disagree SD = Strongly Disagree

- | | | |
|-------------|----|--|
| SA A N D SD | 1. | I feel comfortable when I'm with people I know are lesbian, gay or bisexual. |
| SA A N D SD | 2. | If I found out a friend was lesbian, gay or bisexual, I think our relationship would be less close in the future. |
| SA A N D SD | 3. | I believe that lesbian, gay or bisexual people are always trying to seduce heterosexuals and convert them to their lifestyles. |
| SA A N D SD | 4. | I'm uncomfortable around men who are feminine and women who are masculine. |
| SA A N D SD | 5. | Lesbian, gay, bisexual people shouldn't be teachers because they might make their students gay. |
| SA A N D SD | 6. | Lesbian, gay, bisexual people are immoral. |
| SA A N D SD | 7. | I am able to accept open expression of affection between lesbian, gay or bisexual people. |
| SA A N D SD | 8. | I feel that teenagers can't know if they are lesbian, gay or bisexual or not. |

For many people, much of what they think they know about experiences of lesbian, gay, and bisexual people is based on the myths they've heard about, not reality. Sorting out the myths and realities can lead to greater self awareness which motivates us to learn more.

- | | | |
|-------------|-----|---|
| SA A N D SD | 9. | Gay people can ordinarily be identified by certain mannerisms or physical characteristics. |
| SA A N D SD | 10. | In a gay or lesbian relationship, one partner usually plays the "husband"/butch role and the other plays the "wife"/femme role. |
| SA A N D SD | 11. | The cause of homosexuality has been determined. |
| SA A N D SD | 12. | The majority of child molesters are gay. |
| SA A N D SD | 13. | Homosexuality is not "natural" -- that is, does not exist in nature, therefore, that proves that it is a dysfunction. |
| SA A N D SD | 14. | Gay, lesbian, and bisexual people have made a conscious decision to be gay. |
| SA A N D SD | 15. | There are very few "bisexuals"; most people are either homosexually or heterosexually oriented. |
| SA A N D SD | 16. | Homosexuality is a type of mental illness. |

CRITICAL EVENTS INVENTORY

PURPOSE: To begin to identify some early learning about sexual identity and our experiences with differences in sexual orientation.

DIRECTIONS: For each question, try to think of a specific event or experience, the day, place, and circumstances, if possible. As you review each situation please try to answer the following questions:

1. When did it occur?
2. How old were you?
3. How did you feel about the situation?
4. How did the situation influence your attitudes, values, or beliefs about sexual orientation and heterosexism/homophobia?

QUESTIONS:

1. When was the first time, or a significant time, you became aware that people had a sexual orientation different from you?
2. When was the first time, or a significant time, when you became aware that people were treated differently because their sexual orientation was different from yours?
3. When was the first time, or a significant time, you became aware that your sexual orientation affected the way you are and how you would be treated in this society?
4. When was the first time, or a significant time, in which you felt angry about homophobia/heterosexism in our society?
5. When was the first time, or a significant time, in which you were challenged about your beliefs or attitudes regarding sexual orientation?
6. When was the first time, or a significant time, in which you felt ashamed, or guilty about your sexual orientation?
7. When was the first time, or a significant time, in which you felt proud of your sexual orientation?
8. When was the first time, or a significant time, in which you felt helpless as an individual in creating change regarding homophobia/heterosexism in our society?
9. When was the first time, or a significant time, that you decided to actively resist homophobia/heterosexism?