

GENDER ROLES AND CAREERS

Objective: Students will identify attitudes toward gender roles and their association with careers.

Materials: “Attitudes Toward Gender Roles” activity sheet and a pen or pencil.

ACTIVITY:

1. Explain what is meant by the term “gender roles”. Avoid being biased in your explanation.
2. Distribute activity sheets and complete them in class.
3. Explain scoring key to class after completion of activity.
4. Discuss answers and score interpretation. Discuss how individual attitudes may influence future career decisions.

Are you affected by gender roles? If yes, then how?

Do you think gender roles influence the kind of careers you think about for yourself? How does that make you feel?

Do you think gender roles are fair?
Why or why not?

Is it okay for a man to be a nurse and a woman to be a carpenter? Why or why not?

SCORING:

1. Remind the class to fill out the activity sheet first. Keep the scoring until last.

2. For each part, multiply the number of checks in each column by the number assigned at the top of the column. Write the number in the appropriate box on the subtotal row. For example, if you have two checks in the “SD:5” column, you will total 10 points.

3. Interpretation of score:
A score above 88 reflects dichotomous, gender-bound, traditional attitudes about the roles of men and women.

A score below 88 reflects androgynous attitudes or non gender-bound attitudes about the roles of men and women in society.

ATTITUDES TOWARD GENDER ROLES

Directions: Listed below are common ideas about women's roles in relationship to men. There are no right or wrong answers, only personal opinions. Respond to every item by putting a check mark in the appropriate space.

KEY:

- VSA = Very Strongly Agree
- SA = Strongly Agree
- A = Agree
- D = Disagree
- SD = Strongly Disagree
- VSD = Very Strongly Disagree

VSA	SA	A	D	SD	VSD	Part 1
1	2	3	4	5	6	
						1. Men and women should share responsibilities and privileges of life equally.
						2. Women should express their opinions honestly, even if this is in disagreement with a man.
						3. Men and women should be paid equal wages if they are doing the same work.
						4. Women can think as logically as men.
						5. In a business setting, the woman who acts seductively is not behaving appropriately.
						6. It is possible for women to combine home and career and do both successfully.
						7. If a husband and wife both work outside the home, responsibilities should be shared equally.
						8. Women should follow any vocation they wish, even if this violates tradition.
						9. Women can work in any vocation without appearing masculine.
						10. Men should be willing to work for women.
						11. There is no genetic difference between the genders intellectual ability.
						12. Married women should be able to have both male and female friends.
						13. A college education is equally important for males and females.
						14. It is just as important for women to be intellectually capable as it is for men.
						15. It would be appropriate for a woman to be the president of the United States.
						SUBTOTAL (PART 1)
						TOTAL (PART 1)
VSA	SA	A	D	SD	VSD	Part 2
6	5	4	3	2	1	
						16. A woman should be the "power behind the man" and not the one "out in front".
						17. Truly feminine women let man believe they are the boss even when this is not true.
						18. It is appropriate to divide work into "man's work" and "woman's work".
						19. Men should make the final decisions in financial matters and women should make the final decisions concerning the home.
						20. Acting helpless makes a woman appear more feminine.
						21. Women should act naïve (for example, pretend not to understand) in order to make a man look more knowledgeable.
						22. The best way for a woman to get her way with a man is to use feminine "wiles".

GO TO WWW.COD.EDU/NONTRADITIONAL FOR MORE ACTIVITIES TO INCREASE GENDER AWARENESS.

VSA	SA	A	D	SD	VSD	Part 2 (continued)
6	5	4	3	2	1	
						23. The best guarantee of a good marriage is for the wife to be submissive to her husband.
						24. The most important characteristic for a wife is physical attractiveness.
						25. A woman should work only if she can do so without interfering with her domestic duties.
						26. The best way for a woman to show her love for her family is to dedicate her time to being a homemaker.
						SUBTOTAL (PART 2)
						TOTAL (PART 2)
VSA	SA	A	D	SD	VSD	Part 3
6	5	4	3	2	1	
						27. Women demand equal advantages with men in the world of work, yet insist on special privileges at the same time.
						28. It is only natural for women to be interested in people and men to be interested in ideas.
						29. A woman's place is primarily in the home.
						30. Modern women are too competitive.
						31. Highly-paid jobs should go to men with families to support.
						32. A wife should not compete with her husband in his own areas of endeavor.
						33. It is not possible to maintain a romantic relationship when a woman "beats the man at his own game".
						34. Beauty is more important to femininity than intelligence.
						35. Males are inherently capable in some areas and women in others.
						SUBTOTAL (PART 3)
						TOTAL (PART 3)
						Add totals together from parts 1, 2 and 3.
						TOTAL (PART 3)
						TOTAL (PART 3)
						TOTAL (PART 3)
						GRAND TOTAL

Activity provided by:
 Illinois State Curriculum Center
 Office of Educational Services: University of Illinois at Springfield, K-80