1.2 Generating a Description

Objectives
Specify the characteristics that learners think define a person as homosexual.
Discuss and challenge assumptions about the components of that definition.

Materials needed
Pen and paper, or copies of the next page

Time needed
Five to ten minutes

Instructor directions
Have students do a “write and pass” exercise creating a description of the chosen term.
(One student writes a specified amount or for a specified length of time on an assigned topic, beginning an exercise, then passes the writing to the next student, who continues writing on the assigned topic for the specified amount or length of time.)

Ask the contributors to each definition to form groups and discuss the definitions, examining elements that are stereotypical.

Variation
Have your students follow the directions, creating a definition of the term “Christian,” “hearing impaired,” or “old.”
1.2 Generating a Description Handout

**Directions**
Write the first sentence in a description of the term “lesbian.”
Pass the paper to the person seated beside you, who will write the next sentence.
Continue for one minute.
Discuss the description generated by the group. Answer the following questions:
How does this description reflect a stereotypical view of the term?

How does it challenge it?

Is there anything in your experience that supports this description? If so, what?

Is there anything in your experience that challenges it? If so, what?

**Variation**
Follow the above directions, creating a definition of the term “Christian,” “hearing impaired,” or “old.”