



Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

4.12 Thinking About Gender in Your Major

Objectives

Develop an awareness of how a particular major or field is gendered.

Examine gender roles as they relate to that major or field.

Analyze factors affecting participation of women in the major or field.

Materials needed

Pen and paper, or copies of the handout

Reference materials

Time needed

Sixty minutes or more

Instructor directions

Ask your students to identify a gendered phenomenon in their major or field.

Have them research and write a descriptive report about it.

Variation

Have your students identify a racialized phenomenon in their major or field.

Ask them to research and write a descriptive report about it following the given directions.



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4.12 Thinking About Gender in Your Major Handout

Directions

Identify a gendered phenomenon in your major or field.

Research and write a descriptive report about it. Answer the following questions:

How does gender operate in your major or field?

What is the proportion of women to men?

What behaviors are expected of women and of men in this major or field?

What factors may have influenced women to enter or to avoid this environment?

How active or passive are the roles they play in this environment?

What are two positive and two negative aspects for this environment of having women present in this proportion?

Variation

Identify a racialized phenomenon in your major or field. Research and write a descriptive report about it. Follow the above directions.