

ACTIVITY 8.5

Ten Assumptions About Males and Females

Directions: Each column has 10 rows. Take 90 seconds to write down the first 10 things that come to mind that describe males and females in each column respectively. Do not spend too much time thinking about it or try to censor yourself. Just write down the first thing that comes to mind about the word *male* under the column labeled *Male* and the first thing that comes to mind about the word *female* under the column labeled *Female*. If you cannot come up with any more terms, leave the rest of the rows blank.

Female	Male
1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5
6	6
7	7
8	8
9	9
10	10

After 90 seconds, have the participants break into dyads or small groups to discuss their lists and ask them the following discussion questions.

1. Sex is a term describing the biology of a person. These characteristics include anatomy, hormones, and chromosomes, and the most common categories include male and female. People who do not neatly fit into the category of male or female are called intersex. How many characteristics were actually related to sex?
2. *Gender identity* refers to a person's psychology and spiritual sense of being a man, woman, both, neither, or something else entirely. How many characteristics were actually related to gender identity?
3. *Gender expression* refers to how people communicate gender. This is culturally defined. How masculinity is defined in the United States is different from how it is defined in Asia or Africa. Gender expression includes hairstyle, clothing, voice intonations, gait, interests, and hobbies. It is divided into masculine, feminine, and androgynous. How many characteristics were actually related to gender expression?
4. *Sexuality* refers to a variety of things, including sexual behavior, sexual orientation, and sexual identity. *Sexual behavior* describes who someone is having sex with (e.g., with men), *Sexual orientation* describes someone's attractions (e.g., toward men), and *sexual identity* is the term someone uses to describe his or her sexuality (e.g., lesbian, gay, bisexual, heterosexual). How many characteristics were actually related to sexuality?
5. How are these words limiting to people who don't fit the binary?
6. Any personal reactions to differentiating sex, gender, gender expression, and sexuality?