

Introduction to Gender Stereotypes - Virtual Lesson 2

Introducing Gender Stereotypes

Gender stereotypes are all of assumptions that are made about a person based on their biological sex. To understand gender stereotypes please familiarize yourself with the following terms:

Sex is the assignment of Male or Female, made by a doctor. To determine a person's sex the doctor typically looks at the baby's genitals. There are other factors that make up a person's sex like: chromosomes, hormones, secondary sex characteristics, and internal reproductive organs.

Gender Stereotypes are all of the qualities that we assume a person to have because of their sex. Gender stereotypes tell us that girls should wear pink, play with dolls, and act sweet. Gender stereotypes tell us that boys should wear blue, play sports, and be tough. There are many more stereotypes associated with women/girls and men/boys. Every one of us has something about us that meets the stereotype and something about us that goes against the stereotype. At WISE, we focus a lot on gender stereotypes and all of the ways that they cause harm, for example:

- Gender stereotypes limit who we get to be. In order to avoid being made fun of or being left out, we might try to blend in by enacting the gender stereotypes.
- Gender stereotypes lead to violence and harassment against people who don't fit the stereotype.
- Domestic and sexual violence are most likely to happen in cultures, communities, and groups that believe in traditional gender norms/stereotypes.

Gender Identity/expression is how a person chooses to express themselves to the world, regardless of their assigned sex. Some words that people may use to describe their gender are cisgender, transgender, or genderqueer.

Watch the following videos then complete the activities. There are additional resources for learning more at the bottom.

Watch

- Sex, Gender, and Gender Stereotypes (with Celine from WISE!): <https://youtu.be/Z8UbunRibzk>
- Bill Nye: <https://youtu.be/aQDBNJ3mPa0>
- Break The Box: <https://youtu.be/CWvXal1L5U4>



Gender Stereotypes Activity

- Find 3 advertisements or commercials that portray gender stereotypes about men or women.

- Write down 3 things about yourself that are stereotypically feminine and 3 things about yourself that are stereotypically masculine.

- Find the definitions for the following terms: cisgender, transgender, or genderqueer.

Additional resources for learning more about Gender Stereotypes:

- Sex v Gender v Identity: <https://youtu.be/XN-wD8O9tRI>
- What Are Gender Roles and Gender Stereotypes? <https://www.plannedparenthood.org/learn/gender-identity/sex-gender-identity/what-are-gender-roles-and-stereotypes>
- Toxic Masculinity In Boys Is Fueling An Epidemic Of Loneliness: <https://youtu.be/RbX76n6A160>
- Trans 101: <https://youtu.be/-3ZzpTxjgRw>
- Do You Know The Difference Between Sex and Gender?: https://youtu.be/NpYlE_EjX9M