



Heterosexism & Heteronormativity

Heterosexism is the assumption that all people are heterosexual, and that heterosexuality is the superior sexual orientation.

Heteronormativity is the social setting that assumes heterosexuality to be the “normal” sexual orientation, and homosexuality and bisexuality are a “deviation” (hence the term “straight” to refer to heterosexual people).

Heterosexuality in Perspective

- What do you think caused your heterosexuality?
- When and where did you first decide that you were a heterosexual?
- Is it possible that your heterosexuality is just a phase you might grow out of?
- If you have never slept with someone of the same sex and enjoyed it, is it possible that all you need is a good gay lover?
- To whom have you disclosed your heterosexual tendencies? How did they react?
- Why do heterosexuals seem so compelled to seduce others into their lifestyle?
- Why do you insist on flaunting your heterosexuality? Can't you just be who are and keep it quiet?
- With so many child molesters being heterosexual, do you feel safe exposing your child to heterosexual teachers?
- Why do heterosexuals place so much emphasis on sex?

Heterosexual Privileges

As a heterosexual, I am privileged in the following ways:

- To be able to walk across campus holding my girlfriend's or boyfriend's hand without fear.
- To join a sorority or fraternity without fear of being rejected based on my sexual identity.
- To be able to talk freely about my "relationships" with my roommates, friends, and family.
- To play varsity sports without the fear of being removed from the team because of my sexual identity.
- To walk into any bar or dance with my partner without fear of being verbally or physically abused.
- To interview for jobs and be able to discuss my plans for marriage without fear of being discriminated against.
- To run for a student leadership position without students focusing only on my sexual identity.
- To walk this campus without fear of physical or verbal harm based solely on my sexual identity.

As a heterosexual, I am privileged that I am a member of the dominant culture and I MAY CHOOSE TO BE AN ALLY for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender students.