

Chapter 8 – Essay Questions

1. There is much disagreement about the extent to which homophobia exists in today's sports (women's and men's). Have you ever heard homophobic fears expressed in connection with any of your experiences in sports (as an athlete or spectator)? If so, explain how they were expressed; if not, explain why homophobia has been absent in any of your experiences.
2. What are the challenges faced by gay men and lesbians in sports? What are the various ways of handling these challenges, and what might be done to make sport more inclusive as an extracurricular activity in high schools and universities?
3. What is the argument used by the authors when they say that there is a need for alternative definitions of masculinity and femininity? How would alternative definitions benefit men and women? Give examples from the text and from your experience. Who would be most likely to resist changes in the way gender has traditionally been defined in society?
4. The authors claim that full gender equity depends on ideological and structural changes, especially in the way we "do" sports in society. What is meant by this claim? What kinds of ideological and structural changes are needed to bring about gender equity?
5. What are the political pros and cons of trying to bring about gender equity by developing new sport programmes? What strategies have been used for achieving gender equity in your university? Have they been successful? Why or why not?