**Human Relations Chapter 10 notes**

**Heterosexism**

**Homosexual-someone sexually attracted to members of the same sex**

**A.What is the heterosexual (assumptions)?**

**-all people are born heterosexual and that being attracted to opposite-sex partners is a natural condition of human beings**

**-people who engage in any sexual activity not conforming ti heterosexual norms are assumed to be making deviant and unnatural choices**

**-people try to use the Bible to back these assumptions up**

**B.When was the heterosexual assumption challenged?**

**-Krafft-Ebing established the idea that there were various forms of sexual desire, and that one of these involved the desire for the same sex**

**-Sigmund Freud concluded that homosexuality could not be cured and was probably a permanent condition**

**C.How did the Kinsey Report challenge the heterosexual assumption?**

**-sexual orientation is not a singular phenomenon, but a continuum of multiple possibilities ranging from exclusive homosexuality with a variety of bisexual orientations in between**

**-only a small percentage of their research subjects were exclusively heterosexual or exclusively homosexual**

**-bisexual-being sexually attracted to members of either gender**

**D.What was the impact of the Kinsey Report?**

**-sadly, most psychologists still regarded homosexuality as a defect, a form of mental illness, but homosexuals themselves began to reconsider their situation, they believed that attitudes in America needed to change!**

**-many homosexuals were at times filled with guilt and anxiety because of society’s condemnation or their religious upbringing**

**-American Psychological Association(APA) voted to remove homosexuality from its list of mental illnesses later joined by the American Medical Association(AMA)**

**-heterosexism-the oppression or exploitation of human beings not biologically heterosexual**

**E.What has current research reported with regard to homosexuality?**

**-sexual orientation has a significant biological basis and is an innate characteristic that is a deeply embedded personality trait that can be observed in young children**

**-influence of sex hormones on brain functioning at the primary drive center, the hypothalamus appears to be a biological factor**

**-there is no one single cause of sexual orientation of each individual, but multiple factors are responsible**

**I.Cultural heterosexium**

**-refers to a dominant culture defining heterosexuality as the norm an anything else as deviant**

**-science has attempted to explain the complexity and variations in human sexual response, some people insist that the only acceptable way to love is to be a heterosexual couple**

**A.What historical evidence has described the existence of homosexuality?**

**-goes back to Greek time**

**-anthropologists have observed that culture often determines societal attitudes toward homosexuality**

**-some Native American cultures believed that a homosexual is a special human**

**being , possessing traits of both males and females so endowed with great power**

**-Catholic church has played a major role in the denunciation of homosexuality in Europe**

**-medieval churchmen executed both male and female homosexuals, although women were often accused of being witches all could have been burned at the stake**

**-fagot refers to sticks tied in a bundle at the bottom of the stake when people were burned to death**

**-for royalty or aristocrats, it was possible to escape persecution**

**B.How have attitudes of the American people changed concerning homosexuality?**

**-San Francisco riots forced Americans to acknowledge the present of homosexuals**

**-the word gay became as a self-chosen label of the homosexual community**

**C.What are some anti-gay cultural and religious beliefs?**

**-many Americans still cling to the cultural belief that homosexuality is unnatural**

**-Catholic church now accepts that homosexuality is a natural predisposition but continues to denounce homosexual activity as a sin**

**-protestant churches are divided on the issue**

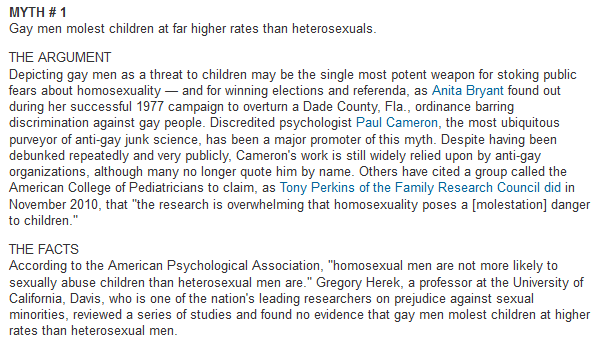
**II.Individual Heterosexism**

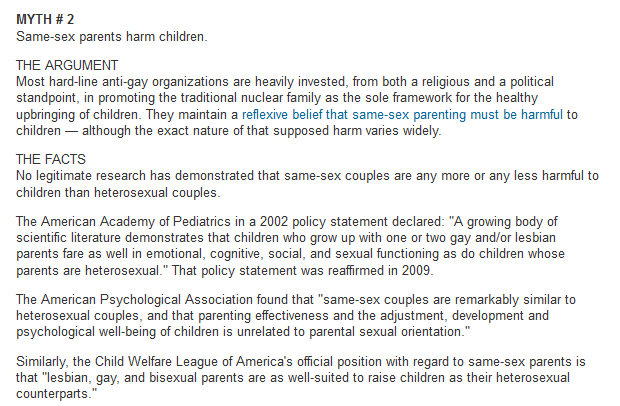
**-negative attitudes and behaviors based on the belief that sexual orientation other than heterosexual activity is unnatural**

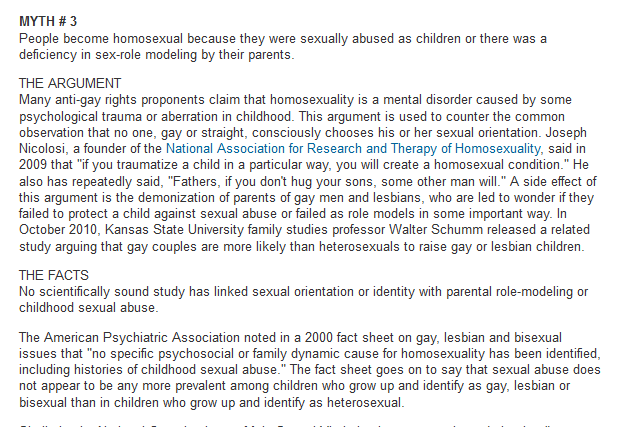
**-gay bashing-physical assault of a person perceived to be gay**

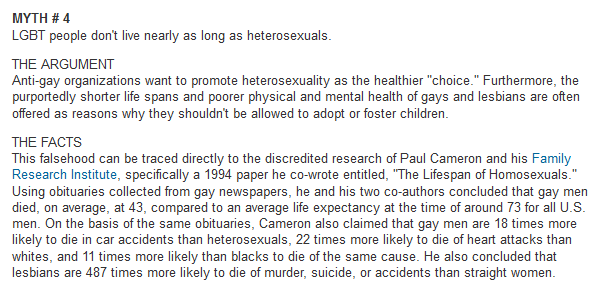
**A.What are some myths about homosexuality?**

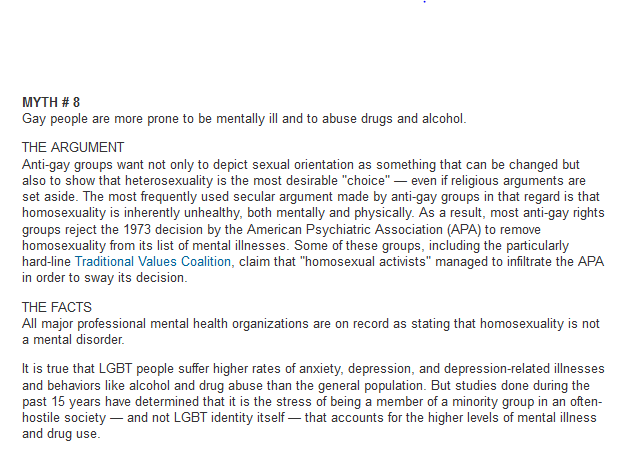
**-homophobia-stronger feeling than prejudice usually defined as fear or hatred on homosexuals**

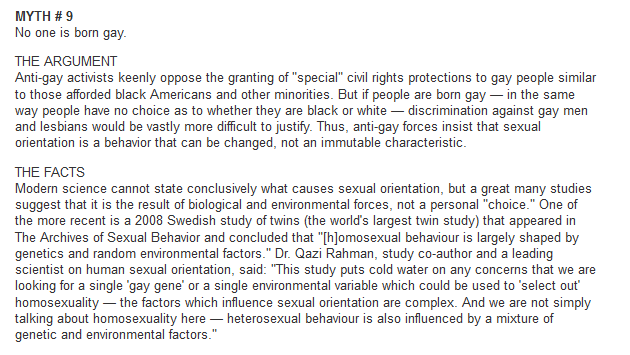
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**III.Instituional heterosexim**

**-established laws, customs, and practices that systematically discriminate against people who are not heterosexual has been so prevalent that activists have increased their efforts to combat discrimination across America**

**-gay rights-insisting that gays and lesbians should have the same rights and privileges as heterosexual America**

**A.Is the demand for gay fights really a demand for special privileges?**

**-the goal of gay rights is to make it possible for gays and lesbians to be honest about their sexual orientation without being deprived of civil rights**

**-it is NOT special treatment, but rather equal treatment**

**-in the closet-denying or disguising their sexual orientation**

**-only around 15 states have laws against discrimination based on sexual orientation**

**B.How can homosexuals be discriminated against if they don’t’ reveal their identity?**

**-there are subtle forms of discrimination that can affects concerns such as job advancement**

**-studies show that homosexuals who did not identify themselves still don’t get promoted as readily as heterosexuals**

**-because of the need they feel to keep their personal lives private, they don’t get as involved in casual conversations or socialization at work**

**C.Why do homosexuals want legal recognition for domestic partnerships?**

**-most want a law that recognize domestic partnerships**

**-many want to be able to make public statements about their commitment to each other including the pledge to maintain a monogamous relationship**

**B.What harm is done to a child raised by gay parents?**

**-there is NO proof that any harm is done!**

**C.Why should homosexuals be allowed to become teachers?**

**-many gay students today do not have support at schools, especially when they are confronted with hostility**

**-some students hear homophobic remarks from teachers in their country**

**-there is no proof that people who are gay have any negative affect because of sexual orientation on students**