

Tips for Non-Stereotyped Teaching

One of the goals of gender equity is to provide unrestricted educational opportunities for all students. Gender equity activities should be deliberate efforts to expand career opportunities, achieve economic and political equity, and eliminate gender bias, stereotyping and discrimination. An important role for teachers is to encourage the development of responsible sex-fair attitudes and behaviors in their students.

Activity Ideas

- When reading a text that contains a stereotype or biased reference, stop and help students identify it. Discuss the origin or source of the stereotype. Plan a lesson around this activity.
- Allow students to do their own research on gender stereotypes. Direct them to study textbooks, library books, magazines, newspapers, advertisements, movies, television and store catalogs, and have them present their findings to the class.
- As a class project, rewrite a story reversing the male and female roles.
- Use bulletin boards and classroom displays as an avenue to present people in *all* roles. Let students participate. Do a collage of the people in your town, portraying both sexes in all kinds of groups and jobs.
- Invite local resource people to speak. Establish role models by concentrating on women and minorities in nontraditional roles.
- Dramatize popular TV commercials reversing the sex roles.
- Encourage a self-examination of attitudes and biases. Through open discussion, attempt to establish their origin.
- Examine the contemporary and historical forces and conditions that have disadvantaged women and minorities.
- Do not typecast people in jobs. Break the stereotyped pattern by presenting women as doctors, astronauts, truck drivers, etc., and men as nurses, secretaries and homemakers.
- Refer to all types of family structures in your teaching. Most texts depict the “typical” nuclear family. Women should also be portrayed as heads of families and working mothers. Fathers should also be presented as homemakers and single parents.

Source: Michigan Center for Career and Technical Education, Michigan State University