

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Towards the beginning of the video, Professor McDowell points out that, “Simply put, men and women are different. They look different. They have different body parts. Different biology. Different hormones. They express emotions differently. They have different needs and desires. Now, if you told that to your great grandmother who never went to college, never used an iPhone, never used social media, she would have asked, ‘Why are you telling me something so obvious?’ But if you said the same thing to a graduate student in sociology or anthropology let alone gender studies, they’d say you were wrong. ‘Men and women are basically the same’ the grad student would say. ‘Sexuality exists on a spectrum. It’s determined by people’s internal feelings.’” Why do you think that some people actually believe that women and men are not different, despite overwhelming, demonstrable evidence to the contrary? Do you believe that sex is ‘determined by people’s internal feelings?’ Explain.
- Later in the video Professor McDowell explains that, “To believe that men and women are basically the same is to believe a delusion. A delusion is a belief that contradicts reality. You can say you’re Napoleon, but that doesn’t make you Napoleon. You can try to socialize girls into behaving like boys or boys into behaving like girls, but it won’t work.” Do you think that some people choose to be delusional in order to attempt to contort reality to comport with their political beliefs? Why or why not? Do you agree with Professor McDowell that attempting to socialize a person to the opposite sex doesn’t work- i.e. that the beach ball will always rise back to the surface? Why or why not?
- Professor McDowell goes on to state that, “Instead of accepting that men and women are different, and that, among many other differences, the sexual act means different things to men and women, many people keep pushing the lie that men and women are the same.” Why do you think that some people refuse to believe that women and men are different? What factors do you think motivate some people to lie about women and men being the same? Explain.
- Later in the video, Professor McDowell notes that, “So now, male and female college students who fifty years ago lived in separate buildings with supervised curfew, share the same dorm rooms and even the same bathrooms. And sex – well, it’s just another form of college entertainment. It means nothing. But, again this just isn’t true. If it didn’t mean anything - why would any woman feel violated by men who take advantage of them; why would there be a #MeToo movement?” How would you answer Professor McDowell’s question? Do you think that sex has less meaning now than in the past? Why or why not?
- At the end of the video, Professor McDowell contends that, “Anyone who tells you that men and women are basically the same and that sex doesn’t matter, is not telling you the truth. They’re making stuff up. So, trust granny. Trust common sense.” What do you think Professor McDowell means by ‘trust common sense?’ Why do you think that sex is such an important and meaningful subject?

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: Boy/Girl Differences in Playtime

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article “Girls play less energetically than boys ‘because they prefer to chat,’” then answer the questions that follow.

- What did the research cited in the article find? What did the researchers warn about? What were boys more likely to do? What did the article state that schools should be aware of? How many children are overweight by the time they reach age 11? Why are men in their seventies more active than women around the same age?
- Why do you think that girls tend to gather in smaller groups than boys? Why do you think that boys tend to gather in larger groups? What factors do you think compel girls to prefer socializing to physical play? What factors do you think compel boys to prefer physical play?
- How does this article relate to the thesis of the video? Explain. Why do you think that the subject of sex and gender is so important to so many people? Why do you think that many people struggle with this topic? Explain.



QUIZ

SEX MATTERS

1. If you told a graduate student in sociology or anthropology that men and women are different, they'd say you're right.

- a. True
- b. False

2. To believe that men and women are basically the same is to _____.

- a. believe reality
- b. believe science
- c. believe a delusion
- d. believe the Bible

3. Women tend to be _____ men about partners with whom they choose to be intimate.

- a. far less discerning than
- b. as equally discerning as
- c. more rude than
- d. far more selective than

4. Anyone who tells you that men and women are basically the same _____.

- a. is telling you the truth
- b. is telling you a lie
- c. is relaying scientific facts
- d. is imparting wisdom

5. If you give a little boy a truck, _____.

- a. he will pretend the truck is sleeping
- b. he will pretend that "daddy truck" is "carrying the baby truck"
- c. he will not play with it
- d. he will turn it into a weapon



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/health/children/4125852/Girls-play-less-energetically-than-boys-because-they-prefer-to-chat.html>

Girls play less energetically than boys 'because they prefer to chat'

Girls tend to play less energetically than boys, because they are more interested in chatting, a new study shows.



Girls spent six per cent less time in vigorous physical activity than the boys

By Kate Devlin Medical Correspondent

3:46PM GMT 05 Jan 2009

Even at the age of 10, girls are more likely to stand around gossiping than playing games or sports like their male classmates, the research found.

Researchers warn that the trends last a lifetime and could lead to obesity.

Researchers who followed the behaviour of 10 and 11-year-olds in their school playgrounds found that the girls tended to spend their time talking in small groups and socialising.

By contrast, the boys were more likely to play in larger groups and to take part in games like football.

Dr Nicky Ridgers of Liverpool John Moores University, one of the co-authors of the research, said: "Our study shows that girls and boys play differently. Girls tend to spend time in smaller groups and engage in verbal games, conversation and socialising. Most boys play in larger groups, which lend themselves more to physically active games, such as football."

Dr Ridgers added: "It is a concern that girls' activity levels are lower than boys and, although it is just one piece in a complex picture, this could be contributing to girls being overweight and obese.

"Schools should be aware of the differences between the way girls and boys behave in the playground and the fact that girls tend to favour small group activities.

"They could then consider the availability of equipment and provision of playtime activities that would encourage girls to take part in more vigorously active play."

Overall, the girls spent 6 per cent less time in vigorous physical activity than the boys.

One third of children are overweight or obese by the time they reach the age of 11, official figures show.

Last week the Government launched a £8 million advertising campaign to encourage parents to take more sport and exercise with their families, under the slogan "Eat well, move more and live longer".

Another study, also presented at the UK Society for Behavioural Medicine annual conference at the University of Exeter, shows that the trend for women to do less exercise continues into old age.

Early findings show that men in their seventies are significantly more active than women, mainly because they spend more time outside the home.

By contrast, the women tended to get most of their exercise performing chores around the house.

Ken Fox, professor of exercise and health sciences at the University of Bristol, who led the OPAL (Older People and Active Living) project, said: "(Older) women are likely to be less active than men. Men accomplish more higher intensity physical activity than women and this seems to be explained by trips out of the house. However, there is evidence that they also sit down for longer periods in the day. Women do more lower intensity activity which probably represents daily tasks around the house."