

The re-creation of single gender classes and schools has resurfaced in the U.S. There is much controversy of whether or not this “new reform” is beneficial for children of all ages. The lack of understanding of gender differences is harmful to the development of both genders. What are you doing as an educator to promote success for ALL students? How can you take advantage of this structure? Walk away with research and non-threatening strategies for the two genders.





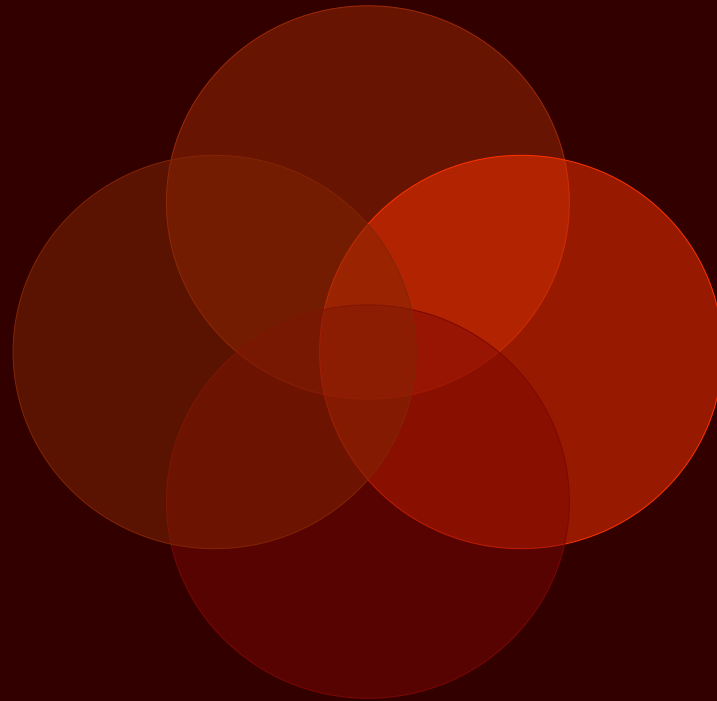
Why Gender Matters: Why Should Educators Care?

- Presenters:
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OPENING

If gender differences are real, what are they and why do they exist?

Venn Diagram
Gender Differences





AGENDA

Why Does Gender Matter?

- Who are we?
- The Avondale Middle School Story
- Research on Single Sex Education
- Strategies for Each Gender
- Why Should Educators Care
- References



Who are we?

- Not researchers – *teachers who engage in action research*
- Not experts – *teachers who learn by doing*
- Not certified educational consultants – *teachers who collaborate to enhance their bag of strategies*
- Personal accounts

The Avondale Middle Story

- Began 1st Semester 2005-2006
- 46% of male 6th grade students served OSS
- 26% of male 6th grade students served ISS
- Overall 25% increase in OSS (compared to 1st semester data of 2003-2004)
- Principal issued challenge to Better Seeking Team to begin thinking of solutions



POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS PRESENTED

- Require parents to serve ISS with student
- Discontinue ISS
- Separate the boys and girls (would require more research)
- Decrease the number of referrals one can accumulate before having a local school hearing



SOLUTION CHOSEN

Separate the boys and girls for
core content classes

WORK PERIOD



Research - Girls

- 1 in 4 girls will show signs of depression
- 1 in 4 girls will be in an abusive relationship
- Girls are 2 times more likely than boys to attempt suicide than boys
- Girls are 5 times less likely than boys to receive attention from teachers
- By age 13, 53% of girls are unhappy with their bodies
- By age 18, 78% of girls are unhappy with their bodies
- Three times more often than boys to be told to be quiet, speak softly, or talk with a “nice” voice
- 3 in 10 girls (30%) and 1 in 7 (14%) boys will become a parent before they turn 20.



Research - Boys

- Boys are 3 times more likely than girls to commit a violent crime
- Boys are 4-6 times more likely than girls to commit suicide
- 70% of special education students are boys
- 80% of discipline referrals are boys
- Up to 70% of the D's/F's are made by boys
- 44% of college students are males
- 2001- 1 in 112 males were sentenced prisoners under state or federal authorities, women were 1 in 1724

Boys

- Objects in motion (verbs), the location and movement
- Cool colors (silver, blue, black, grey, brown)
- Inventive with how things work and fit together



Girls

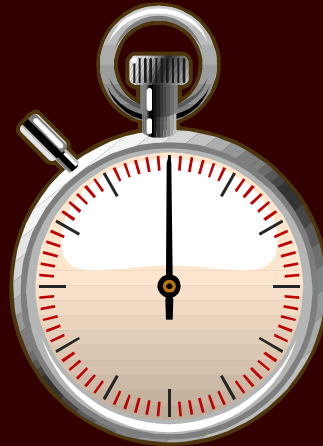
- Objects (nouns), their descriptions and details
- Warm colors (red, yellow, green, orange)
- Descriptive about objects and the world



- Boys tend not to hear as well as girls, particularly at the 1000-4000Hz range (speech discrimination). There is rarely a time when something is too loud.
- Girls tend to hear better and more sensitive to sound. They can interpret loud or deep voices as “yelling” at them...and that you are mad at them.

Let's breathe

- In what ways do you think gender can affect education?
- In what ways are you willing to use gender as a means to meet the needs of students?



Chadwell, David. *A Gendered Classroom: Gender Differences and Classroom Implications*. Summer 2008.



Why Should Educators Care?

- Lack of understanding of gender differences supports/reinforces the continuance of gender bias and social development
- If teachers break down gender differences they could eliminate the gender bias and create true gender equity
- The lack of awareness of sex differences is harmful to both genders' development (esp. emotional and social)



Strategies

- Seeing
- Hearing
- Engaging
- Processing
- Choices
- Responding

CLOSING



My Top Strategies

- When I did this...

- I will now implement this...

References

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Book list available in handout



Thank you for coming!