

Chapter 2: Occupational Segregation and Gender Discrimination

Most of the discussion questions in Chapter 2 do not have right or wrong answers. They are meant to stimulate conversation on the topic of gender discrimination.

1. Students may have different opinions about why occupational segregation exists.
2. It is likely that cleaners and administrative assistants will be women, while maintenance staff working with heavy machinery or landscaping services will be men.
3. Possible answers for Question 3 include: During an interview, women may need to emphasize strengths that they are assumed not to possess—even if they are mentioned on their resume.
4. This is an opinion question. Students may feel that both men and women want a more balanced life-style.
5. Some gendering practices that might be mentioned are: assuming that women will be notetakers during a team project; assuming that men will be the ones to understand computer technology; fraternity parties with themes that denigrate or put women in an inferior position.
6. Images in women's magazines promote a very narrow range of beauty, especially for women of color. Most of these magazines are selling things (cosmetics, clothes, etc.), so the content is limited to reinforce selling these products. Women aren't depicted in many different professions.