Chapter 9 - Case Studies

Case Study 9.1

A Sexual Harassment Quiz

Directions:
• Circle “T” for TRUE if you think the statement is generally or usually true.
• Circle “F” for FALSE if you think the statement is generally or usually false.
• Check your answers below.

T  F  1. If a woman or a girl dresses or behaves in a sexy way, she is suggesting that she is interested in being sexually active.

T  F  2. Men and boys can be victims of sexual harassment.

T  F  3. Sexual harassment can occur between people of the same sex.

T  F  4. Women in professional jobs – teachers, lawyers, engineers, doctors, for example – are not as likely to be sexually harassed as women in blue-collar jobs like factory workers, secretaries, or truck drivers.

T  F  5. Women who work in jobs that are usually held by men – construction workers, accountants, or surgeons – are more likely to be sexually harassed.

T  F  6. Women and girls rarely file false charges of sexual harassment.

T  F  7. Saying “NO’ is usually enough to stop sexual harassment.

T  F  8. If sexual harassment occurs in the school between students, it is illegal and the school is responsible.

T  F  9. Most people – male or female – enjoy getting sexual attention at work and at school.

T  F  10. One of the best ways to deal with sexual harassment is to ignore it.

T  F  11. Women of color are sexually harassed more often than white women.

T  F  12. If he didn’t like the sexual attention, but she meant it only as flirting or joking, then it was not sexual harassment.

Adapted and Updated from
Sexual Harassment and Teens
Susan Strauss (1992)
Sexual Harassment Answer Key

1. – Dressing in a sexy way?
FALSE

This is blaming the victim. Although it may increase the likelihood that one will become a victim, dressing or behaving in a sexually provocative way is not the cause of sexual harassment and not being sexually provocative way does not prevent harassment. In the U.S., females are taught to seek for the approval of males, and one way to do this is by looking sexy. Boys are taught that being sexually aggressive is masculine and “cool,” and that if a girl dresses in a sexy way she is looking for sexual attention from men.

2. – Men can be victims?
TRUE

About 15-30 percent of men say that they have been sexually harassed in the workplace. Men in nontraditional jobs may experience more sexual harassment than men in traditional jobs.

3. – Between people of the same sex?
TRUE

This is more common among males than among females. It is estimated that male-to-male sexual harassment accounts for 20 percent of all male sexual harassment complaints, whereas only 3 percent of sexual harassment complaints involve women being harassed by other women. Sexual harassment laws and policies do not differentiate between opposite-sex or same-sex harassment. They apply to both kinds.

4. – Professional women vs. blue-collar women workers?
FALSE

It is believed that professional women and blue-collar women experience the same AMOUNT of sexual harassment; although it the FORM of harassment may differ. Professional women may experience more subtle forms whereas blue-collar women are more likely to experience over forms of sexual harassment.

5. – Women in jobs usually held by men?
TRUE

Women in nontraditional jobs tend to be victims of sexual harassment more often than women in traditional jobs. The reasons are unclear, but it is believed that power plays a role. A woman in a nontraditional job is usually in the minority and is more vulnerable. This is also true for men/boys in jobs usually held by women.

6. – False charges of sexual harassment?
TRUE

False charges of sexual harassment are believed to account for less than two percent of the total charges filed. Most women refuse to report sexual harassment due to lack of support,
fear, self-blame, embarrassment, and other factors. It is extremely unlikely that a woman would go through all the trouble and pain of reporting sexual harassment if it did not occur.

7. – Saying “No” is enough?
FALSE

Most sexual harassment is motivated by power; therefore, saying “no” is likely to have no effect and may even cause increased sexual harassment. In addition, it is very difficult for a victim of sexual harassment to say no to a harasser who is her employer, teacher, coach, or just a popular peer. These people have power.

8. – Sexual harassment in schools is illegal and schools are responsible?
TRUE

According to Title IX, sexual harassment in school is illegal whether it is between a teacher and a student or between two students. If it occurs at school or during school activities, the school is responsible. The school board, the principal, teachers, and school staff may be held liable for sexual harassment, meaning that these individuals can be held personally responsible for the harassment and charged under civil law.

9. – Enjoy sexual attention?
FALSE

Most women/girls are angry or embarrassed by sexual attention at work and at school. They report feeling belittled when their sexuality is the focus rather than their personal or professional attributes. Some men/boys say they do enjoy sexual attention, perceiving it as flattery, while other say they do not appreciate sexual attention, but both groups of males agree that they do not enjoy being sexually harassed (i.e. being subjected to UNWANTED sexual attention). In addition, male perceptions of what might constitute unwanted sexual attention may differ from women’s perceptions.

10. – Ignore sexual harassment?
FALSE

Sexual harassment escalates when it is ignored. Victims must take action to stop harassment by confronting the harasser or reporting the harassment to the authorities.

11. – Women of color are harassed more?
TRUE

Women of color often tend to be victimized when they are a minority at a school or worksite because they are perceived as more vulnerable. If they are in a low-level, low-paying job, they are likely to be harassed by those in positions of power over them. In addition, there are cultural myths about different women of color which often implying that women in the group may expect or enjoy sexual attention.

12. – Flirting is not sexual harassment?
FALSE
The main point here is the importance of perceptions. If both people regard the behavior as flirtatious, there is no problem, but if the person who is the object of this “flirting” perceives it as sexual harassment and explains how he or she feels about it, then the person flirting must respect that and respond accordingly. Some people don’t understand how sexist remarks can affect others; that is why the law is concerned with the IMPACT of the behavior, not the intent.

Critical Thinking Questions:

1. What did you learn about sexual harassment by taking this quiz? What surprised you the most? If you did not receive any new information, where had you previously received this information?

2. Since men are the primary sexual harassers (even when men are the victims), it is important to understand why they engage in this behavior. What is your explanation for why men harass? Do you think this is a problem that will diminish in the future or not? Explain.
Case Study 9.2

Contributions of Women to Science

Match the woman’s name with her achievement (answers are below):

___ 1. Ruth Fulton Benedict  A. (paleontology) established the first museum of Natural History on the West Coast.

___ 2. Barbara McClintock  B. (physics) worked on the Manhattan Project.

___ 3. Anna Botsford Comstock  C. (medicine) one of the first female surgeons, she created the Newborn Scoring System.


___ 5. Annie Montague Alexander  E. (anthropology) wrote *Patterns of Culture*.

___ 6. Libbie Henrietta Hyman  F. (biologist) established the link between number of chromosomes and the sex of the organism.

___ 7. Elda Amma Anderson  G. (astronomer) one of the first females at Harvard, helped create a catalogue of 350,000 stars.

___ 8. Mary Meara Chase  H. (geneticist) first woman engaged in individual research to be awarded a Nobel Prize.

___ 9. Nettie Maria Stevens  I. (conservationist) wrote *Silent Spring*.

___ 10. Virginia Apgar  J. (biochemist) along with husband Carl, awarded a Nobel Prize in Medicine & Physiology in 1947.

___ 11. Annie Jump Cannon  K. (chemist) her research on tuberculosis resulted in a skin test widely administered starting in 1966.

___ 12. Rachel Carson  L. (microbiologist) discovered the bacteria which caused scarlet fever.


___ 15. Gladys Henry Dick  O. (zoologist) over 30 years of research resulted in the classic six-volume work, *The Invertebrates*. 
Additional information about the achievements of these women in science:

___ 1. Ruth Fulton Benedict  
E. studied with Franz Boas at Columbia, taught there and wrote several influential articles and books (The Crysanthemum and the Sword).

___ 2. Barbara McClintock  
H. identified “jumping genes” in 1951, but it took 20 years for her colleagues to understand her work, finally recognized with a MacArthur Foundation grant in 1979, Nobel Prize in 1982.

___ 3. Anna Botsford Comstock  
M. first woman professor at Cornell in 1899 but demoted by Board of Trustees to lecturer, she continued her research and publishing until she regained her Assistant Professor status in 1913 and was promoted to full Professor in 1920.

___ 4. Florence Barbara Seibert  
K. despite having polio when she was 3 which left her disabled, she studied fever carrying proteins for her graduate work at Yale, won awards for that work, then worked on the tuberculosis skin test at the University of Chicago.

___ 5. Annie Montague Alexander  
A. Established the museum on the campus at UC-Berkeley and with her partner Louise Kellogg collected almost 17,000 plant specimens and almost 7,000 animal specimens.

___ 6. Libbie Henrietta Hyman  
O. earned PhD at the University of Chicago and published The Invertebrates between 1940 and 1967, acclaimed as a classic reference because of the depth and breadth of the research.

___ 7. Elda Amma Anderson  
B. (from Wisconsin) not only worked on the team that developed the atom bomb, but later worked at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

___ 8. Mary Meara Chase  
N. with no college degree, this self-taught scientist overcame all obstacles to work her way up the ranks at the USDA’s Bureau of Plant Industry.

___ 9. Nettie Maria Stevens  
F. chromosome link was discovered during her research on mealworms, but her findings were not accepted until Edmund Wilson reported similar findings much
later, and today Wilson is still given credit for this discovery.

___10. Virginia Apgar  
C. The Newborn Scoring System (also known as the Apgar score) consisted of five measurements to determine the health of the newborn. It was developed in 1951 and widely disseminated.

___11. Annie Jump Cannon  
G. working at the Harvard Observatory Cannon identified thousands of stars for the Henry Draper Catalogue and Henry Draper Extension.

___12. Rachel Carson  
I. Her first book was The Sea Around Us (1951) followed by The Edge of the Sea (1955) and Silent Spring (1962). She died in 1964.

___13. Florence Bascom  
D. in addition to the other “firsts” already noted, she was the first woman to earn a PhD from Johns Hopkins University.

___14. Gerty Radnitz Cori  
J. born in Prague before immigrating to the U.S., she and husband Carl studied the chemical processes of carbohydrate breakdown and discovered that a hereditary disease could stem from an enzyme deficit.

___15. Gladys Henry Dick  
L. working with her husband, George, a physician, they identified the bacteria that caused scarlet fever and also developed methods to diagnose, prevent, and treat this disease. The husband and wife team were nominated for the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1925 (no prize was awarded).

Source for information: The Remarkable Lives of 100 Women Healers and Scientists  

Critical Thinking Questions:

1. For those answers that you knew, how did you become aware of this woman’s achievement in science? Do you think you should have known about more of these women than you did? Explain.

2. Of the women you didn’t know, which achievements were the most impressive to you? Explain. Do you think these women should be included in the K-12 science curriculum? Why or why not? Do you think more females would be interested in science if they were more aware of women’s achievements in science? Explain.