

POSSIBLE IDEAS/DATES FOR ORAL PRESENTATIONS

Note: These suggestions are meant to inspire, not limit, your choices of current events topics to select news articles for oral presentations,By

Socialization and Gender Roles

Gender stereotypes and children's toys/games; differences in male and female patterns of parenting; gender roles in children's television programming; influence of sex hormones; differences in female and male brains and potential implications for personality; divorce and gender socialization of children

Representation of Gender in Advertising and Popular Visual Media

Images of women/men in advertising;
Dieting, eating and body image disorders among males and females;
Alternative beauty/body ideals for both sexes;
Race/gender representations in popular music (e.g., hip-hop, rock), television or film;
Cosmetic surgery;
Feminist media.

Socialization: Race, Ethnicity, Nationality and Gender Roles; Gender and Education

Gender socialization in specific ethnic and racial groups;
Biculturalism and gender socialization;
Title IX and educational equality;
Women in science and math education;
Single-sex schools (high schools, colleges) for males and females

Sexualities and Gender; The Right to Marriage

Gay/lesbian/bisexual rights in schools, workplaces, religious institutions, the military;
Same-sex marriage debate, gay adoption rights/gay parenting;
Legal cases of hate crimes/anti-gay violence;
Gays and lesbians in the military;
Religious views on homosexuality; Issues facing gay/lesbian/bisexual elders;
Media images of gay men, lesbians and bisexuals.

Perspectives on Transgender

"Passing" as the other sex; legal rights of transgendered individuals; sex reassignment medical treatment (including surgery) and medical insurance; "trans" men and women's colleges; transgender children; media images of transgendered people.

Sexuality, Contraception and Reproductive Choice

New developments in contraception for women and men;
Abortion rights and reproductive choice;
Contraception for minors; Teen pregnancy; HIV/AIDs and gender roles
Sex education in public schools.

Gender and Work

Affirmative action; American and international parenting leave and support policies in the workplace for women and men; workplace issues for women of color; full time parenthood/homemaking as a career choice.

Gender and unionization; role of women/men in nontraditional occupations; status of women in science and engineering; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and discrimination in the workplace; sexual harassment; gender and retirement; gender and disability; the “glass ceiling”, sexual segregation of the labor force (“pink collar work”).

Violence Against Women/Gendered Violence

Domestic/relationship violence and rape prevention programs; legislation to address domestic violence and rape; acquaintance rape; rape crisis programs; men and boys as victims of domestic and sexual violence; rape as an act of war.

Global Politics; Contemporary Gender Equality Movements

Legal rights of women in specific countries (e.g., voting, education, employment, marriage, property, divorce, child custody);

Globalization of labor and women in sweatshops;

Health issues of women in the developing world (e.g., maternal health, contraception, HIV/AIDS);

International mobilizations for women’s rights (e.g., UN);

Microfinance as a strategy for women’s economic development (e.g., Grameen bank);

Female circumcision/genital mutilation;

Mail-order brides;

Women and the politics of immigration.

Contemporary feminist activists (e.g., Eve Ensler, author of

The Vagina Monologues, Rebecca Walker) and groups; young women’s initiatives;

Gender and national politics;

Men and feminism;

Feminism and the environmental movement; web-based feminist organizing;

Women as social entrepreneurs and philanthropists.

MIT OpenCourseWare
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