

Nebraska Connects: Are You Man Enough?

Discussion Guide

SUMMARY OF PROGRAM:

Nebraska Connects: Are You Man Enough? is a live call-in show (with videotaped discussion starter segments) that explores the societal causes of gender violence and what can be done about it. The program features a panel of young people, along with two adult professionals working in the field of domestic violence, and a host to facilitate the program. They will discuss the issues and respond to questions and comments phoned-in or e-mailed by viewers.

WHILE YOU WATCH:

The three video segments are designed to serve as discussion starters during the program. Stop the tape after each segment and discuss in small groups or as a class. Remember, these are opinions, not answers.

SEGMENT #1 – What does it mean to be a man?

Key themes : gender roles, image, stereotypes, traditions

1. What are some of the common words that are used to describe traditional masculinity?
2. What factors help determine how you learn what it is to be a man?
3. How is someone treated if they don't fit this masculine norm? What names are they called?
4. How do these definitions of masculine/feminine affect relationships between young men and women?
5. A couple of the people interviewed said the definition of what is a man is changing. Do you think they are right? Why or why not?
6. How do you feel the definition has changed since when your parents or grandparents were young? Is the change good or bad? Why?
7. Are there benefits to putting on a real "tough man" guise? What are they?
8. What are the consequences for men who are "out of the box" or don't use the "tough man" guise?

SEGMENT #2 – Images in media and popular culture

Key themes: music, magazines, advertising, glamorized violence, pornography, wrestling

1. Where do you see advertisements (think of as many places as possible)? What makes an advertisement remain in your memory?
2. How do the messages in advertising counter or undermine social change?
3. What factors help determine how you learn what it is to be a man? Has your opinion changed from earlier after seeing these images?
4. How do you think music videos define and portray “femininity” and “masculinity”? How do they portray power for men? For women?
5. How do these stereotypes play out within relationships? Can they lead to power differences or abuse? Are portrayals of relationships in music videos accurate in “real life”? How or how not?
6. In the wrestling sequence, the fans interviewed after the match agreed that “she got what she deserved” and the abuse was justified. Do you see a connection between being entertained by something and finding it acceptable?
7. What are the dangers in assuming “no” doesn’t actually mean “no” in pornography and advertising? Do you think those men being interviewed were speaking of only situations in porn/advertising or of real life relationships?
8. Is the media just a scapegoat?
9. Where else do we learn gender roles?

SEGMENT #3 – How do we change the culture?

Key themes : change, speaking out, altering stereotypes

1. What kind of resistance do you think an organization like this would face and why?
2. What might keep people from joining such an organization?
3. What stereotypes does this group hope to alter?
4. What other ways can you think of to make small changes in the cultural behaviors and stereotypes that lead to violence against women?
5. Can you give an example of gender violence that you have seen? Was there anything you could do to stop it?

RESOURCES

www.teenrelationships.org	Center for Domestic Violence Prevention
www.teenwire.com	Planned Parenthood
www.teenpear.com	Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape
www.loveisnotabuse.com	Liz Claiborne
www.whynotask.org	Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Abuse
www.apa.org/pi/pii/teen/homepage.html	American Psychological Assoc.
www.rape101.com	
www.strongmendontbully.com	Gloucester Men Against Domestic Violence
www.pbs.org/inthemix/shows/show_dating_violence.html	
www.vawprevention.org	
www.sportinsociety.org/mvp.html	Sport In Society—violence prevention
www.mencanstoprape.org	
**** www.ndvsac.org	Nebraska Domestic Violence Sexual Assault Coalition—has a page of resource links to all programs 1-800-876-6238 Statewide Crisis Line
**** www.friendshiphome.org	Friendship Home 402-474-4709 Hotline
Rape Spouse Abuse Crisis Center	402-475-7273 Hotline
National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-7233 (voice) 1-800-787-3224 (TDD)

NEBRASKA PUBLIC RADIO COMPANION PIECES

Links to streamed Nebraska Public Radio news segments dealing with domestic and gender violence can be found on the Nebraska Connects : Are You Man Enough? web site http://mynptv.org/ne_connects/man_enough/index.html or individually at the following sites:

Boys and violence: a learning process

http://nprn.org/nprn_news/npr012004.html

Masculinity and perceptions

http://nprn.org/nprn_news/npr012204a.html

Breaking the silence

http://nprn.org/nprn_news/npr012704.html

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Viewer Questionnaire

If you are a teacher using this guide, we would appreciate your feedback. Please take just a moment to fill out this form and email your answers or send the form in. Thank you.

Your name: _____

Your school: _____

These materials were used in: (check all that apply)

_____ A formal class (which class? _____)

_____ An after-school/extracurricular group (which group? _____)

_____ For school counseling

_____ Other (Please describe: _____)

Number of students this guide was used for: _____

Grade level(s) of students this guide was used for: _____

Email information to:
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or mail this form to:
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