

# Study Questions on Stereotyping and Blaming the Victim

## Snyder-- "Self Fulfilling Stereotypes"

- List three ways that stereotypes can be perpetrated
- How are Chafe's circles of control involved in stereotyping?
- How do stereotypes perpetrate unequal relationships between dominants and subordinates?

## Ryan, "Blaming the Victim"

- Explain blaming the victim, using an example of your own.
- How is social Darwinism related to blaming the victim?
- How does blaming the victim perpetuate an "ideology of individualism"?
- What is an "ideology of individualism" and what's wrong with it?
- Where is the line between blaming the victim and holding people responsible for their actions?
- What are some of the political effects of blaming the victim?

## Mohr, "Anti-Gay Stereotypes" (RCG, 458-63)

- How common is homosexuality?
- What are some of the most common and pernicious stereotypes about gays?
- How do stereotypes about gays affect straight men and women?
- How do stereotypes about gays function as a form of social control? How do they encourage other forms of social control such as self-policing and gay-bashing?

## Cameron, "Performing Gender Identity" (Xerox Book, 223 ff.)

- What are the usual generalizations about how men talk? What are the usual generalizations about women's talk?
  - How do stereotypes about gender differences construct our understanding of experiences?
  - Explain the idea that gender is not only socially constructed but also "performative"
  - How does the group of guys in this article define "gay"?
  - How do the stereotypes about gender in language hold up? Which of these stereotypes do you agree with? Which do you question?
  - What are some of the linguistic features observed to be common to women's informal conversation?
- How is conversation used as a form of "Othering"?