

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Female Coaches

In the United States, there are currently no women coaching men's sports teams at the professional level of basketball, football, hockey, or baseball. At the college level, women coach fewer than 3% of men's teams. Yet it is the norm for men to coach women's sports teams. In fact, at the college level, men hold 57.1% of all coaching positions for women's teams. How do we account for this disparity?



Some claim there is a lack of female candidates seeking such jobs. Others say that female candidates lack the experience necessary to be competitive for such jobs.

Some comment on the lack of female role models who have successfully coached men. And of course, there are the persistent stereotypes that women cannot coach men because they are too emotional, too weak, or cannot command men's respect. Most of these reasons are merely versions of the same flimsy excuse: women do not coach men because women have never coached men.

There is a problem with this paradigm. If women are not even considered for coaching positions in men's professional sports, then we are choosing our experts from only half the population—a very limited pool. There are likely women out there with incredible talent for coaching men's professional sports. This talent will remain untapped as long as our society remains content with the current situation.

1) As used in paragraph 1, which of the following is an example of a **disparity**?

- A. The Wildcats basketball team has won seven games and lost six so far this season.
- B. Plainview High School students need to attach their posters to the wall, but they do not have any tape, thumb tacks, or glue.
- C. The national shortage of nurses means that someone with a nursing degree can find a job almost anywhere.
- D. West View neighborhood has three parks, yet East View neighborhood has none.

2) In paragraph 2, the author claims that people explain the lack of female coaches by saying “women do not coach men because women have never coached men.” This line of reasoning can best be summarized as

- A. it should never be done
- B. it has never been done before
- C. if it could be done, it would already have been

- 3) it is unlikely to ever be done Which of the following counterarguments does the author fail to address in the passage?
- A. Women should not coach men in a sport where they have not competed against men as a player.
  - B. Male athletes will not respect a female head coach as they would respect a male head coach.
  - C. Women do not have enough experience coaching men's sports teams to be qualified for the job.
  - D. There are so few women seeking coaching jobs for men's teams that teams are unlikely to hire a woman.
- 4) In the final paragraph, the author writes, "If women are not even considered for coaching positions in men's professional sports, then we are choosing our experts from only half the population—a very limited pool." Which of the following situations is most similar to the one described in this statement?
- A. Schools in California will hire someone with an in-state teaching license before they will hire someone with a license from another state.
  - B. Successful hockey players were often the oldest in their class, since being older made them likely to be taller and stronger than their peers.
  - C. People who apply to law school tend to share certain character traits such as a sense of duty and a desire to play by the rules.
  - D. Only upperclassmen are allowed to play in the high school marching band; no freshmen or sophomores are allowed.
- 5) The author apparently believes that
- A. any woman could coach a men's sports team if given the chance
  - B. men should not be allowed to coach women's sports teams
  - C. women should be encouraged to coach men's sports teams
  - D. if a woman applies to coach a men's sports team, she should get the job
- 6) If the author added another paragraph at the end of this passage, the topic of that paragraph would most likely be
- A. the history of female coaching
  - B. ways to increase the number of female coaches
  - C. other jobs where men are usually hired instead of women
  - D. the number of female coaches at the high school level



## Answers and Explanations

1) D

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

**disparity** (*noun*): a lack of similarity or equality; difference.

In paragraph 1, the author asks, “How do we account for this disparity?” To understand what the word *disparity* means, we need to study the surrounding context. In the previous sentences, the author writes, “At the college level, women coach fewer than 3% of men’s teams. Yet it is the norm for men to coach women’s sports teams. In fact, at the college level, men hold 57.1% of all coaching positions for women’s teams.” From this we can understand that “this disparity” refers to the fact that women coach fewer than 3% of men’s college teams, whereas men coach 57.1% of women’s college teams. This is a great difference or inequality. This tells us that disparity means a lack of similarity or equality. If West View neighborhood has three parks, yet East View neighborhood has none, this is also a difference or inequality. This means this is an example of a disparity. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

If the Wildcats basketball team has won seven games and lost six so far this season, there is not a lack of equality in this situation. This is just their overall record. This eliminates **(A)**.

If Plainview High students need to attach their posters to the wall, but they do not have any tape, thumb tacks, or glue, then this is a lack of supplies, but not a lack of equality. This makes **(B)** incorrect.

If the national shortage of nurses means that someone with a nursing degree can find a job almost anywhere, this is a situation where a lack of nurses makes them desirable. However, this is not a lack of equality. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

2) B

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 2, the author claims that people explain the lack of female coaches by saying “women do not coach men because women have never coached men.” In other words, people claim the reason women do not do it is because they have never done it. This means that this line of reasoning can best be summarized as it has never been done before. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

The statement “women do not coach men because women have never coached men” discusses what happened in the past, not what should happen in the future. This means this line of reasoning cannot be summarized as it should never be done. This makes **(A)** incorrect.

People who claim “women do not coach men because women have never coached men” may agree that if it could be done, it would already have been done. However, the statement in the passage only suggests that it has never been done before. It does not suggest why it has not been done yet.

This eliminates **(C)**.

The statement “women do not coach men because women have never coached men” discusses what happened in the past, not the likelihood of what will happen in the future. This means this line of reasoning cannot be summarized as it is unlikely to ever be done. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

**3) A**Core Standard: **Key Ideas and Details**

In the final paragraph, the author writes, “There are likely women out there with incredible talent for coaching men’s professional sports. This talent will remain untapped as long as our society remains content with the current situation.” From this we can understand the author’s argument is that some women could coach men’s teams well if given the chance. In paragraph 2, the author paraphrases several explanations people give for the lack of women coaching men’s teams. The author writes, “Some claim there is a lack of female candidates seeking such jobs. Others say that female candidates lack the experience necessary to be competitive for such jobs. Some comment on the lack of female role models who have successfully coached men. And of course, there are the persistent stereotypes that women cannot coach men because they are too emotional, too weak, or cannot command men’s respect.” All of these reasons could also be used as counterarguments by someone who is opposed to women coaching men’s teams. At the end of paragraph 2, the author writes, “Most of these reasons are merely versions of the same flimsy excuse: women do not coach men because women have never coached men.” In this statement the author addresses the previous counterarguments and dismisses them as “flimsy.” However, in this statement, the author fails to address the counterargument that women should not coach men in a sport where they have not competed against men as a player. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “And of course, there are the persistent stereotypes that women cannot coach men because they are too emotional, too weak, or cannot command men’s respect.” In this statement he or she addresses the counterargument that male athletes will not respect a female head coach as they would respect a male head coach. This eliminates **(B)**.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Others say that female candidates lack the experience necessary to be competitive for such jobs.” In this statement he or she addresses the counterargument that women do not have enough experience coaching men’s sports teams to be qualified for the job. This makes **(C)** incorrect.

In paragraph 2, the author writes, “Some claim there is a lack of female candidates seeking such jobs.” In this statement he or she addresses the counterargument that there are so few women seeking coaching jobs for men’s teams that teams are unlikely to hire a woman. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

**4) D**Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

Coaching positions in men’s professional sports, then we are choosing our experts from only half the population—a very limited pool.” In this statement, the author explains that by only choosing men for coaches, we are entirely excluding roughly half of the population just because they are women. If only upperclassmen are allowed to play in the high school marching band, and no freshmen or sophomores are allowed, this means that roughly half of the student population, the freshmen and sophomores, are excluded just because they are not upperclassmen. This situation is very similar to excluding roughly half of the population from coaching just because they are not men. This means that this situation is most similar to the one described in the statement. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

If schools in California will hire someone with an in-state teaching license before they will hire someone with a license from another state, they give priority to a certain population. But they do not exclude part of the population entirely. This makes **(A)** incorrect.

If successful hockey players were often the oldest in their class, since being older made them likely to be taller and stronger than their peers, being older could be an advantage. But this does not mean that younger hockey players are excluded from playing entirely.

This means **(B)** is incorrect.

If people who apply to law school tend to share certain character traits such as a sense of duty and a desire to play by the rules, people in law school may tend to have these traits. But this does not mean that people who do not share these traits are excluded from applying to law school.

This eliminates **(C)**.

## 5) C

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 1, the author questions why “at the college level, women coach fewer than 3% of men’s teams” even though “it is the norm for men to coach women’s sports teams.” This suggests that the author thinks this inequality is perplexing and possibly even unfair. In paragraph 2, the author summarizes reasons people give to explain the lack of female coaches, and describes these reasons as “merely versions of the same flimsy excuse.” From this we can understand that the author does not think these explanations justify such an inequality. In paragraph 3, the author states, “There is a problem with this paradigm.” He or she adds, “There are likely women out there with incredible talent for coaching men’s professional sports. This talent will remain untapped as long as our society remains content with the current situation.” From this we can understand that the author apparently believes this talent in women should be tapped. In order to make use of their talent, we need to have more female coaches of men’s sports teams. This tells us that the author apparently believes that women should be encouraged to coach men’s sports teams.

Therefore **(C)** is correct.

Although the author suggests that “there are likely women out there with incredible talent for coaching men’s professional sports,” he or she does not suggest that all women have this talent. This means the author does not apparently believe that any woman could coach a men’s sports team if given the chance.

Therefore **(A)** is incorrect.

In paragraph 1, the author tells us that “at the college level, men hold 57.1% of all coaching positions for women’s teams.” Although the author suggests this represents an inequality, he or she does not imply that men should not be allowed to coach women’s teams. Instead, he or she suggests that women should be given an equal opportunity.

This eliminates **(B)**.

Throughout the passage, the author does not say anything to suggest that if a woman applies to coach a men’s sports team, she should get the job just because she is a woman. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

**6) B**

Core Standard: **Integration of Knowledge**

In paragraph 1, the author questions why “at the college level, women coach fewer than 3% of men’s teams” even though “it is the norm for men to coach women’s sports teams.” In paragraph 2, the author summarizes reasons people give to explain this lack of female coaches, such as “a lack of female candidates seeking such jobs” and “the lack of female role models who have successfully coached men.” In paragraph 3, the author writes, “There is a problem with this paradigm.” He or she goes on to explain that the current situation is unsatisfactory because “there are likely women out there with incredible talent for coaching men’s professional sports” and “this talent will remain untapped as long as our society remains content with the current situation.” From this we can understand that the author most likely thinks that the current situation should change to include more female coaches of male teams. To achieve this change, we need to determine ways to increase the number of female coaches. This is the next logical step in the author’s progression of ideas. This means that if the author added another paragraph at the end of this passage, the topic of that paragraph would most likely be ways to increase the number of female coaches. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

The majority of this passage discusses the current situation of female coaches and why that situation is unsatisfactory. This means that at the end of the passage, the author is more likely to discuss the future of female coaching and how it should change than the history of female coaching. This eliminates **(A)**.

The passage focuses specifically on gender inequality in coaching professional and college level sports. This means the author would be unlikely to add a paragraph at the end of this passage about other jobs where men are usually hired instead of women, because the focus of such a paragraph would be much broader than the focus of the current three paragraphs. This makes **(C)** incorrect.

Since the current three paragraphs focus specifically on gender inequality in coaching professional and college level sports, the author would be unlikely to add a paragraph at the end of this passage about the number of female coaches at the high school level. Such a paragraph would shift the focus of the passage. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

**7) C**

Core Standard: **Craft and Structure**

**paradigm** (*noun*): an example serving as a model; pattern; standard.

In the final paragraph, the author writes, “There is a problem with this paradigm.” To understand what the word *paradigm* means, we need to consider the context of the passage. In paragraph 1, the author discusses the “disparity” between the number of female coaches of men’s teams and the number of male coaches of women’s teams. In paragraph 2, the author writes that all of the reasons given to account for this inequality “are merely versions of the same flimsy excuse: women do not coach men because women have never coached men.” Then the author writes that “there is a problem with this paradigm.” From this we can understand that “this paradigm” refers to both the current situation and the history of very few women coaching men’s teams. This tells us that the author sees a problem with the pattern of few, if any, women coaching men’s teams. The problem is that the potential talent of female coaches “will remain untapped as long as our society remains content with the current situation,” meaning the current pattern. From this we can understand that the word *paradigm* most nearly means *pattern*. Therefore **(C)** is correct.

The word paradigm refers to both the history and the current situation of women coaching men's teams. This means it is not just one *action*, but a recurring pattern. This eliminates **(A)**.

The author does not suggest that the problem is so broad that it is a problem with the entire *culture*. Instead, he or she sees a problem with the history and the current situation of women coaching men's teams. This means **(B)** is incorrect.

The word paradigm refers to both the history and the current situation of women coaching men's teams. This means it is not just one *decision* made, but a recurring pattern of behavior.

Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.