

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

7) As used in the final paragraph, the word **paradigm** most nearly means

- A. action
- B. culture
- C. pattern
- D. decision

8) How do you think more women can become involved in coaching professional sports? How can women overcome the barriers they currently face? Explain your ideas.
