Stereotypes

Often, stereotypes are all around us, and we may engage in them without even thinking about it. Complete the following sentences, then find a partner and discuss the questions that follow.

a) All athletes are ____________________________________________

b) People on welfare are ________________________________________

c) He's a cheap ______________________________________________

d) Drugs are used by __________________________________________

e) Homosexuals are __________________________________________

f) All politicians are __________________________________________

g) People with AIDS are ______________________________________

h) Homeless people are ________________________________________

i) All Christian Fundamentalists are _____________________________

j) Male hairdressers are ________________________________________

k) Male ballet dancers are ______________________________________

l) All Jewish mothers are ______________________________________

m) All Harvard graduates are _________________________________

n) All construction workers are ________________________________

o) He's so dumb, he must be __________________________________

p) He's so smart, he must be _________________________________

q) He's quick-tempered, so he must be _________________________

r) He drinks like a fish, so he must be _________________________

Discussion Questions:

1. Is there any prejudice or bigotry evident in your answers? If so, where?
2. What factors contribute to such prejudice and how? (e.g., television, parental attitudes).

3. Discuss Adolf Hitler's reported statement, "Who still tells nowadays of the extermination of the Armenians?" Does this statement have any validity today?

4. Discuss the following: "Genocide can never be eliminated because it is deeply rooted in human nature." Do you agree or disagree?

5. Why do some people join groups such as the KKK?

6. Is it possible to grow to adulthood without harboring at least some prejudice toward certain groups?

7. What can you change in your own life to overcome habits of stereotyping?