

April 15, 2004

QUESTIONS ON FAMILY VIOLENCE

Read: Goodrum, Umberson, Anderson: The Batterer's View of the Self and Others in Domestic Violence
Johnson and Ferraro: Research on Domestic Violence in the 1990s: Making Distinctions
Straus: Ten Myths that Perpetuate Corporal Punishment

1. Provide one statistic describing rates of domestic violence in the US.
2. Why would a battered woman struggle to explain her partner's violence, according to Goodrum et al.? (p. 327)
3. 85% to 90% of the men participating in the violence counseling center were court-ordered to attend. Can you see any disadvantages to this arrangement?
4. What are the defense mechanisms used by batterers, according to Goodrum et al.?
5. Describe how batterers tended to view their partners.
6. What kinds of people are most likely to influence batterers' behavior? Least likely?
7. How did the comparison group differ from the batterers?
8. How did the comparison group differ from the batterers with respect to the issue of partners influencing them?
9. What is Johnson and Ferraro's main point?
10. Describe the classification system for partner violence developed by Johnson and Ferraro.
11. Describe the "cobra" and "pit bull" types of batterers studied by Jacobson and Gottman. (p. 497)
12. Describe the most controversial issue in the literature on partner violence.
13. What kinds of variables do Johnson and Ferraro suggest might be influencing the data on race and ethnic differences in partner violence?
14. What brings an end to the sense of victimization felt by some battered women?
15. List as many of the "myths" presented by Straus as you can.

16. What is Straus' basic position? What is yours with respect to corporal punishment?
17. Be prepared to discuss the difficulty of choosing objective, neutral words to talk about physically punishing children.
18. Which "myth" discussed by Straus surprised you the most? What is a myth?

MIT OpenCourseWare
<http://ocw.mit.edu>

21A.230J / WGS.456J The Contemporary American Family
Spring 2004

For information about citing these materials or our Terms of Use, visit: <http://ocw.mit.edu/terms>.