

How Important is Marriage?

To be used with “Should the Government Promote Marriage?” by Andrew Cherlin. *Contexts*. Fall 2003.

Directions: Get into groups of 3 or 4. As a group, find evidence given in the article that supports both sides of this debate.

- 1) Imagine that you are a proponent of the “Marriage Movement.” What evidence can you find in this article that supports your argument that marriage is the best family form?

- 2) Now, imagine you are part of the “Diversity Defenders.” What evidence can you find in the article that supports your argument that marriage is one of many positive family forms?

Now that you have examined some evidence for both sides of the debate, discuss and answer these questions with your group:

1. Do you think the government should promote marriage? If so, is there a specific group that should be targeted? If not, why not?

2. Do you think that a child who is raised by married parents benefits from their marriage?

3. Do you think that children who are raised in other family forms (e.g. single mothers, single fathers, gay and lesbian couples, etc.) benefit just as much as children who are raised by a married mother and father?