Read each statement.
Circle "T" for TRUE if you think the statement is generally or usually true.
Circle "F" for FALSE if you think the statement is generally or usually false.

T  F  1. Sexual harassment is a problem in the workplace.
T  F  2. Sexual harassment is a problem in the schools.
T  F  3. Men/boys can be victims of sexual harassment.
T  F  4. If a woman/girl dresses or behaves in a sexy way, she is asking to be sexually harassed.
T  F  5. Sexual harassment can occur between people of the same sex.
T  F  6. Women in professional jobs (teachers, lawyers, engineers, doctors, etc) are not as likely to be sexually harassed as women in blue-collar jobs (factory workers, secretaries, truck drivers, etc).
T  F  7. Women/girls rarely file false charges of sexual harassment.
T  F  8. Saying "NO" is usually enough to stop sexual harassment.
T  F  9. If sexual harassment occurs in the school between students, it is illegal and the school is responsible.
T  F  10. Women/girls who work in jobs that are usually held by men (construction workers, accountants, surgeons, etc) are more likely to be sexually harassed.
T  F  11. Most women/girls enjoy getting sexual attention at work and at school.
T  F  12. Most men/boys enjoy getting sexual attention at work and at school.
T  F  13. The only people who can harass women/girls at work/school are those in positions of authority (employers, teachers, administrators).
T  F  14. Women/girls use their sex appeal to get what they want at work and at school.
T  F  15. One of the best ways to deal with sexual harassment is to ignore it.
T  F  16. Women of color are sexually harassed more often than white women.
T  F  17. Most victims of sexual harassment report it to their employer or school principal.
T  F  18. If he didn't like the sexual attention, but she meant it only as flirting or joking, then it was not sexual harassment.
T  F  19. Teasing and flirting are no big deal. They make school and work more fun.
T  F  20. Schools/workplaces should know if sexual harassment is occurring among their students/employees.
14. Women/girls use their sex appeal to get what they want at work and at school.
   FALSE. The belief that women/girls use their sex appeal inappropriately is largely a myth. Most women want to be recognized and rewarded for their work/school performance and professional/scholarly expertise, not for being sexy.

15. One of the best ways to deal with sexual harassment is to ignore it.
   FALSE. Sexual harassment escalates when it is ignored. Victims must take action to stop the harassment. They must report it to authorities.

16. Women of color are sexually harassed more often than white women.
   TRUE. Women of color tend to be victimized in many ways. Because they are often in the minority, they are more vulnerable. They may be in low-level, low-paying jobs, where people in power can abuse their power. Various cultural myths perpetuate the idea that women of color enjoy or expect constant sexual attention.

17. Most victims of sexual harassment report it to their employer or school principal.
   FALSE. It is estimated that less than 5 percent of sexual harassment incidents in the workplace are reported. How many do you think are reported in schools?

18. If he didn't like the sexual attention, but she meant it only as flirting or joking, then it was not sexual harassment.
   FALSE. If a person perceives sexual attention as sexual harassment, then it is sexual harassment. Remember that the law is concerned with the impact of the behavior, not the intent behind it. Sometimes the intent is genuinely innocent, and a behavior is misunderstood as harassment. In most of these cases, the behavior stops when the victim explains how he/she feels about it. Often, people don't understand how sexist remarks or behaviors can affect others.

19. Teasing and flirting are no big deal. They make school and work more fun.
   FALSE. Remember that sexual harassment is in the eye of the beholder. What may be teasing to one person may be sexual harassment to another.

20. Schools/workplaces should know if sexual harassment is occurring among their students/employees.
   TRUE. They are responsible for providing an environment that is free of sexual discrimination and harassment. The courts say that an organization is liable for sexual harassment that occurs among employees and/or students, and that employers should know if it is occurring. Teachers/managers should be able to read cues from students and staff that harassment may be occurring.
7. Women/girls rarely file false charges of sexual harassment.

TRUE. False charges are believed to account for less than 2 percent of the total. Most women refuse to report sexual harassment when it does occur due to lack of support, fear, self-blame, embarrassment, and other factors. It seems extremely unlikely that they would go through all the trouble and pain of reporting sexual harassment if it did not actually occur.

8. Saying "NO" is usually enough to stop sexual harassment.

FALSE. Most sexual harassment is motivated by power. Therefore, a "no" may have no effect. Some teens report that saying "no" has actually increased the sexual harassment. Also, it is very difficult for a victim to say "no" to an employer, teacher, coach, or even to a popular peer. Those people have power.

9. If sexual harassment occurs in the school between students, it is illegal and the school is responsible.

TRUE. Sexual harassment is illegal according to Title IX, whether it occurs between a teacher and a student or between two students. The school is definitely responsible if the harassment is occurring in the school or during school activities. The school, the principal, teachers, and other school staff may be held liable for the illegal harassment. This means that they can be held personally responsible for the harassment, and charged under civil law.

10. Women/girls who work in jobs that are usually held by men (construction workers, accountants, surgeons, etc.) are more likely to be sexually harassed.

TRUE. Women in nontraditional jobs tend to be victims of sexual harassment more often than women in traditional jobs. The reasons are unclear, but it is believed that power plays a role. A woman in a non-traditional job is usually in the minority and is therefore more vulnerable. This is also true for men/boys who work in jobs that are usually held by women (such as nursing).

11. Most women/girls enjoy getting sexual attention at work and at school.

FALSE. Most women/girls are angry, annoyed, and embarrassed by sexual attention at work and at school. They report feeling negated and belittled when their sexuality is noticed instead of their personhood, professional attributes, and intelligence.

12. Most men/boys enjoy getting sexual attention at work and at school.

TRUE OR FALSE. This is a tough one. Some groups of males report that they do enjoy it, while others report that they do not enjoy it. Men do not enjoy being sexually harassed. (Remember that harassment is unwanted sexual attention.) However, many men indicate that they are flattered by some sexual attention. Their perceptions of what constitutes unwanted sexual attention may differ from women's perceptions.

13. The only people who can harass women/girls at work/school are those in positions of authority (employers, teachers, administrators).

FALSE. Customers, coworkers, classmates, and friends can also be harassers.
1. Sexual harassment is a problem in the workplace.
   TRUE. Studies show that 75-90 percent of working women have experienced sexual harassment. (See question #3 below for information about men in the workplace.)

2. Sexual harassment is a problem in the schools.
   TRUE. In one study, 50 percent of teenage girls reported that they had been sexually harassed at school. Many articles have been published about the problem of sexual harassment for women in colleges and vocational-technical schools. (Currently there is no hard data available about sexual harassment and teenage boys, although we do know that it happens.)

3. Men/boys can be victims of sexual harassment.
   TRUE. About 15-30 percent of men say that they have been sexually harassed in the workplace. Men in nontraditional jobs may experience more sexual harassment than men in traditional jobs. It is not known what percentage of boys in secondary schools are victims of sexual harassment.

4. If a woman/girl dresses or behaves in a sexy way, she is asking to be sexually harassed.
   FALSE. This is blaming the victim. Dressing or behaving in a sexually provocative way doesn't cause sexual harassment, although it may increase the likelihood that one will become a victim. On the other hand, NOT dressing or behaving in a sexually provocative way doesn't PREVENT harassment. The underlying problem is the way society teaches girls and boys to relate to each other. Girls are taught that winning the approval of boys and men is all-important, and that the best way to do it is by looking sexy; boys are taught that being sexually aggressive is "macho" and "cool," and that when girls dress in a sexy way, they are asking for sexual attention.

5. Sexual harassment can occur between people of the same sex.
   TRUE. This is more common among males than among females. It is estimated that male-to-male sexual harassment accounts for 20 percent of all male sexual harassment complaints. Three percent of sexual harassment complaints by women involve female-to-female harassment. The law doesn't differentiate between opposite-sex harassment or same-sex harassment; it applies to both kinds.

6. Women in professional jobs (teachers, lawyers, engineers, doctors, etc.) are not as likely to be sexually harassed as women in blue-collar jobs (factory workers, secretaries, truck drivers, etc.).
   FALSE. It is believed that professional women and blue-collar women experience the same amount of sexual harassment. Professional women may experience more subtle forms of sexual harassment, while harassment directed toward blue-collar women may be more open.