

## Sex in America

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The presentation will be available for download from:  
[http://www.historylines.net/lishi/2012/May\\_30.html](http://www.historylines.net/lishi/2012/May_30.html)

### Dating, sex, and marriage.

Here are three sets of contrasting opinions. For each set, which opinion do you think is more accurate for people in general, and which opinion is closer to the truth for you personally?

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Young people must learn to develop good friendships with affection and caregiving without any sex. If they have sexual relationships before they are ready to get married, they will probably put too much attention on sex, and fail to mature in their ability to take care of others or show love in ways outside of sex. After they understand how to be a good partner and friend without sex, then they can get married and their sexual relationship will be good enough because they will be able to have a mature love and be more caring for their partner.

Sex is an important and enjoyable way for people to express their love for each other. It is also very important in marriage. Young people should be allowed to express their friendships with sexual behavior. This way, they will know what they (sexually) want in a marriage partner. By having sexual relationships and experiencing romance, they will learn to how blend sexual affection with other forms of love and caregiving. Struggling with the moral issues around sexual relationships will help them have mature attitudes in their interpersonal relationships.

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It is natural in relationships for two people to have different levels of interest in sex, or different strengths of passionate feelings. It is natural for the person who is more eager for sex to push for sex. Part of normal dating is for people to learn how to negotiate with others when they have different desires or interests. So, in romantic relationships, it is fine for one person to push for more for sex, and the other person to be less eager. The less eager one can try to meet the more eager partner half-way, or can break up the relationship. This is a normal part of dating.

Outside of marriage, people who want sex should not push an unwilling friend to have sex with them. People must show deep respect for the morals other people have. Moral values or personal preferences about not having sexual contact deserve more respect than desires for sex. Even in a long-term relationship or a marriage, the partner who wants something must defer to the opinions of the partner who does not want that thing, or is less willing to satisfy the eager partner. A partner should hold no expectation that just because they want something their partner should give in and give them that thing.

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Sex makes relationships more enjoyable. It is normal for people to use sex to improve their relationships. As young people have more sexual partners in their early adult life, they will gain more maturity and understanding about their own feelings. This self-understanding will help them have better relationships with everyone. Also, in sexual behavior people reveal some of their deepest personality traits. A person who may *seem* to be very loving, and may *appear* to be a good caregiver, might show in their sexual behaviors that they are cruel or selfish. Thus, having some sexual experiences can help young people avoid bad matches.

Sex intensifies feelings. If you break up with someone after you have had romantic and sexual experiences with them, you will be much sadder and lonelier than if you just drift away from a friend with whom you were never sexual. Thus, when young people have sexual and romantic relationships, they will fear breaking up. If they easily get sexual with people who are merely *fairly good* matches for them, they will spend too much time in those relationships, and miss opportunities to meet people who are *really excellent* matches for them. By keeping relationships non-sexual, young people will be able to meet more potential life-partners and find a better match.

## Personal Values about Sexual Behavior

Consider: Sometimes sexual behavior is clearly unethical and immoral. Rape is wrong. So is sex between adults and children. Other forms of sexual behavior are also considered wrong: sex between close relatives (brothers and sisters, parents and their grown children, etc.), sex between humans and non-human animals, sex between a married person and someone other than their marriage partner. These things are, for most people, clearly all wrong.

Sometimes sexual behavior is considered healthy and good. Two persons who are married are allowed to have sex together, and they are actually encouraged to do so. Sex is usually part of a healthy married relationship. They are generally supposed to do this in privacy and in ways that both enjoy, but so long as both are content and no one is hurt, nearly anything seems acceptable.

Sometimes sexual behavior is controversial. Some people think it is okay, and others think it is not okay.

This exercise describes a relationship with a sexual situation to consider, and you must decide whether a particular sexual behavior is right or wrong.

For each behavior, think about whether the behavior is...

Possibly Good.

Maybe Okay.

Allowed but discouraged. Maybe a bad idea, but not morally wrong.

Forbidden but not too bad. Just a little bad.

Morally wrong and bad.

**Two unmarried people are friends. They have known each other for six months. One asks the other if they could have sex. The other agrees. They have sex. They are not married.**

What if the two persons are over 30 years-old, does that change anything?

What if the two persons are only 17 years-old?

What if they only have non-penetration sex, (no penis goes into a vagina or anus)?

What if the two persons are both boys?

What if they are both girls?

What if one of the two friends makes it clear that they do not want to have a long-term romantic relationship. They do not want to become lovers. They just want to have sex sometimes and then continue with their old friendship as if nothing has happened. The other partner agrees with this, but privately hopes that they will become long-term lovers.

What if one friend wants casual sex and a non-romantic friendship, but the other one strongly wants a long-term romantic relationship, and makes it clear that this is what they are hoping for?

What if they have only known each other for three weeks instead of six months?

What if they have known each other for six years instead of six months?

Does it make a difference if they are both 18, if they are both 28, or if one is 18 and the other is 24? How does age make a difference (if it does)?

What if one wants sex and the other does not, but then both of the friends get drunk, and while drunk (intoxicated), the reluctant friend agrees to have sex?

## **Social Work and Art**

Social work is coming back in China. There are now many departments of social work, and thousands of newly trained social workers, but 20 years ago there were almost no social workers in China.

### **Social workers are a profession. This means that...**

They have unique skills. Society values these skills.

They must have lengthy, specialized training.

Their training and their work is based upon theories and scientific knowledge-building.

They have a code of ethics and use this code to guide their work.

They are organized in a professional association.

Their work benefits society; public service and some voluntary work is part of their professional duty.

### **Social workers work in the areas of:**

Social welfare and social welfare policies.

Social harmony and the elimination of prejudices.

Mental health.

Child welfare.

Services for persons with disabilities.

Public health.

Hospitals.

Gerontology.

Violence and crime prevention.

Prisoner rehabilitation.

Schools.

Counseling, therapy, and psychotherapy.

Community organizing.

Managing volunteers and coordinating voluntary efforts.

Economic development.

Advocacy for social and economic justice.

Advocacy for persons who might be neglected or oppressed by society.

### **The goals of the social work profession are...**

To improve the quality of human relationships.

To help people improve their functioning and raise their levels of life contentment.

To help people learn how to solve their problems and reach their goals according to their own values.

To ensure that society efficiently and effectively addresses social problems.

To promote social development in society.

To promote social and economic justice.

(especially to remove barriers to persons who experience poverty or health problems)

(also especially to work for equality and fairness in areas of economics and political power)

To eliminate such social evils as

war,

poverty

racism,

discrimination against persons with disabilities,

child abuse, and

sexism.

### **Social Work training builds on a foundation in the liberal arts.**

#### **It is an interdisciplinary profession.**

Social workers must be familiar with natural sciences, especially biology and medicine.

Social workers must be familiar with the social sciences, especially sociology and psychology.

Social workers should be knowledgeable about the humanities, especially history, literature, and art.

Social workers should have at least some training in political science and philosophy.

Social workers should be able to think critically and use theories in their work.

## **Social Work Perspectives on Art**

Presentation by Eric Hadley-Ives  
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### **Art and social work.**

Here are some reasons that art is important to social workers.

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Social workers believe that everyone should be able to participate in the cultural life of their society and their community. The arts, especially visual arts, performing arts, and musical arts are important aspects of any community's cultural life.

“There are human experiences that defy the power of words to describe them. To express our most intimate, most profoundly moving feelings and ideas we use a more sensitive, more subtle language we call the arts.” - Ernest Boyer

Art can be used to affirm and dignify our lives. It can promote the goals of social work.

We can, to some degree, measure the quality of a civilization through its art.

Persons who are unable or unwilling to talk about some thoughts and feelings may be able to express themselves through music, performance, or visual arts.

Performing arts may enhance our ability to empathize with others and care for them.

Learning to create and “read” art can improve our critical thinking, and help us gain good insights into our own lives and the actions of those around us.

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Images or music may communicate to people who are unable or unwilling to read or listen to words.

Music and arts can be an important part of personality identity. People may follow ideals and undertake actions that are presented to them through art.

Pleasure in art may enhance our quality of life and raise our life satisfaction.

Art may help a culture or community create a sense of belonging and togetherness.

Art can raise awareness. It may be a more effective tool than verbal language for bringing people's attention to social problems or conditions.

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### **Questions:**

What sort of art do you like? Who are your favorite singers, composers, painters, or calligraphers?

How does the art you like make you feel when you hear or see it?

Which of the themes presented in today's lecture seemed most interesting or attractive to you?

Can you remember the names of any of the artists or works of art you saw in today's presentation?  
Are there any that you want to look up and learn more about?

How do you use art in your life? How do you decorate your living space? How do you use music?

## Travel in America

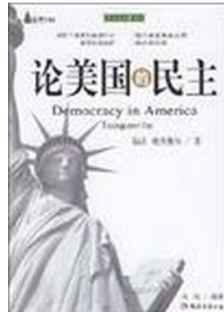
If you are interested in travel and want to read about some travel, please consider reading one or more of these books. Some of them are quite good in English, and perhaps the Chinese translation is also good.

### 美国的迷惘



副标题: 重寻托克维尔的足迹  
作者: (法) 贝尔纳·亨利·莱维  
译者: 赵梅  
出版社: 广西师范大学出版社  
出版年: 2009-1-1  
页数: 283  
定价: 36.00元  
装帧: 平装  
ISBN: 9787563379026

### 论美国的民主



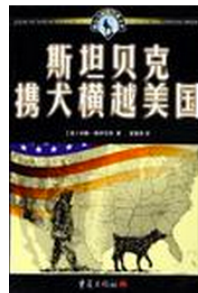
作者: 亚历西斯·德·托克维尔  
译者: 高牧  
出版社: 南海出版公司  
出版年: 2007-10  
页数: 391  
定价: 58.00元  
ISBN: 9787544238304

### 傻子出国记



副标题: 新天路历程:“教友城号”漫游欧洲及圣地记  
作者: (美) 马克·吐温  
译者: 陈良廷 / 徐汝椿  
出版社: 人民文学出版社  
出版年: 1985  
定价: 3.50  
装帧: 平装  
统一书号: 10019-3860

### 斯坦贝克携犬横越美国



副标题: 一旅行与探险经典文库  
作者: 约翰·斯坦贝克  
出版社: 重庆出版社  
出版年: 2005-10  
页数: 256  
定价: 28.50元  
装帧: 简装本  
丛书: 旅行与探险经典文库  
ISBN: 9787536673649

### 想象异国-现代中国海外旅行与写作研究



副标题: 现代中国海外旅行与写作研究  
作者: 陈晓兰  
出版年: 2012-1  
页数: 221  
定价: 26.00元  
ISBN: 9787212045807

### 美国景象



作者: 亨利·詹姆斯  
译者: 碧桃  
出版社: 东方出版  
出版年: 1901-1  
页数: 492  
定价: 68.00元  
ISBN: 9787506021999

### Some possibly useful websites

- **Trip Advisor:** [www.tripadvisor.com](http://www.tripadvisor.com)
- **Lonely Planet Thorn Tree:** [www.lonelyplanet.com/thorntree/](http://www.lonelyplanet.com/thorntree/)
- **Virtual Tourist:** [www.virtualtourist.com](http://www.virtualtourist.com)
- **Orbitz:** [www.orbitz.com](http://www.orbitz.com)
- **Wiki Travel:** [wikitravel.org](http://wikitravel.org)
- **Amtrak:** [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)
- **Weather Underground:** [www.wunderground.com](http://www.wunderground.com)
- **Currency Converter:** [www.xe.com/ucc/](http://www.xe.com/ucc/)
- **Hostelling International:** [www.hihostels.com](http://www.hihostels.com)
- **Rick Steves:** [www.ricksteves.com](http://www.ricksteves.com)

### Some maps

- **Google Earth** [earth.google.com/](http://earth.google.com/)
- **Terra Server** [terraserver-usa.com/](http://terraserver-usa.com/)
- **Mapquest** [www.mapquest.com/](http://www.mapquest.com/)

### Hospitality Exchange Networks.

[www.CouchSurfing.org](http://www.CouchSurfing.org)  
Hospitality Club, Nomadbase, Tripping,  
Global Freeloaders, Be Welcome,

## **A Social Worker's Perspective on Travel in America**

Presentation by Eric Hadley-Ives  
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Here are some reasons why people travel:

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To experience novelty. To escape boredom and tedium.

To find inspiration. To become more creative. To experience the excitement and adventure of being in a new or different place.

To experience the pleasure of seeing beautiful things and tasting delicious foods that are new or different from what one normally sees or eats.

To meet new people and learn about differences in culture or habits between people from one's home community and the community one visits.

To learn and improve oneself.

To visit museums to learn from them. To learn from the traveling experience, and become a better person for it. To learn from people you meet.

To practice and improve skills in a second language.

To act in ways that are meritorious. Doing service. Promoting peace and international friendship. Visiting a site of pilgrimage. Seeking blessings at a religious site.

To relax and get away from stresses experienced at home or work.

To demonstrate one's wealth and one's open-mindedness, to show others that one is a traveller, an experienced person who knows the ways of the world.

To participate in a hobby or personal interest such as photography, camping, or snorkeling.

To attend an interesting event, such as a festival, a conference, an exposition, or a fair. To meet other persons with similar backgrounds or interests who will also attend the event.

To accompany someone else who loves to travel, to share with them their pleasure in the traveling experience.

To experience a situation where you will have more time together with someone you like, and work in cooperation with that person to share experiences and have fun together, or perhaps to have misery together.

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### **Questions:**

What are the main motivations for you when you travel? What do you most like to do when you travel?

How many weeks of vacation do you think a worker should enjoy each year? If you had the ideal number of days of vacation, how many of those days would you spend quietly at home or visiting close family, and how many of those days would you spend traveling?

If you could go to America for two weeks, what would you want to see, and how would you want to travel? What if you could go for four weeks? What would you do, where would you stay?