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Same-Sex Marriage: Moral Wrong Or Civil Right? (Exceptional Social Studies Titles For Upper Grades)



Synopsis

Explores the topic of legal same-sex marriage/civil unions in a balanced, thought-provoking way that encourages critical thinking about the issue.

Book Information

Series: Exceptional Social Studies Titles for Upper Grades

Library Binding: 144 pages

Publisher: Twenty-First Century Books (April 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0822571765

ISBN-13: 978-0822571766

Product Dimensions: 8.8 x 6.3 x 0.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.5 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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Best Sellers Rank: #2,329,670 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #101 in [Books > Teens > Social Issues > LGBT Issues](#) #120 in [Books > Teens > Education & Reference > Social Science > Anthropology](#) #336 in [Books > Teens > Social Issues > Dating & Intimacy](#)

Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up
Andryszewski puts arguments for and against same-sex marriage into a cultural, religious, political, and legal context. Beginning with a history of the gay rights/gay liberation movement from the 1960s to the 1980s, she progresses to a nuanced analysis of religious support for and opposition to same-sex marriage; the changing definition of marriage; the status of gay families; and political developments in the past two decades. Although other books on the topic are available, this one contains unique arguments, including a conservative case for same-sex marriage; a radical case for domestic partnership, instead; and an in-depth discussion of the advances and setbacks of the 2000s. Quotations, informational sidebars, and glossy photographs add depth and visual appeal. The book also has an extensive index, a list of organizations to contact, and a who's who section that complements the text. The scope is limited to the U.S., and although the viewpoints presented are analyzed in depth, very little ethnic or racial diversity is represented. Nevertheless, this book will be valuable both for research and for those LGBTQ teens hungry for all related information.
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“A hot issue and a legal muddle” is how Andryszewski sums up the current same-sex marriage debate, and in her very detailed, in-depth overview she describes landmark court cases and state rulings, as well as the wide range of opinions among the gay and straight, conservative and liberal, and religious and secular. Health benefits and inheritance rights are among the important legal questions raised. Throughout, quotes from all sides of the debate appear, including some from the children of same-sex couples. With lots of full-color, captioned photos of weddings, couples, and families, and sidebars that present comments from pundits that range from conservative Christians to Supreme Court justices and gay activist lawmakers, the book’s design is sure to draw curious browsers, as well as passionately engaged researchers. Both groups will appreciate the concluding profiles of leaders and their opinions. A detailed time line, a glossary, source notes, and a bibliography of books and Web sites round out the book’s extensive back matter. Grades 7-12. --Hazel Rochman

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