B14. Marriage Benefits

Type of exercise: assignment, classroom discussion

Level: basic

Length of time: 30 minute interview, 30 minute internet work, 30 minutes for classroom discussion

Resources needed: none

Instructions: Besides the obvious desire for individuals to couple and have that bond recognized by others, there are a number of benefits that couples acquire through the legal status of marriage. In this assignment, ask students to interview someone who is married:

- Inquire about the person’s perceptions of the benefits of marriage, including social, personal, and financial.
- Find a website that lists marriage benefits and compare them to the interviewee’s responses.

Have students share in the classroom their interview experience as well as their web research on marriage benefits in the classroom. Bring up questions such as “How is health care affected by the ability to legally marry or not?”