

A Survey

Listed below are about a quarter of the “belief statements” people brought to class last Thursday. Some, it seems to me, are statements someone could decide whether she believes or not, and others aren’t – that is, they’re not a statement you could preface with either “I believe that . . .” or “I deny that . . .” Your assignment is to think about which category each of these falls into. If you think it’s that kind of statement, check the “Yes” box; if it’s not, check “No.” If you think that there’s a clear condition under which someone could make the decision, check the “Depends” box (if you can indicate in a phrase what it depends on, you can write that in the space under it).

Please bear in mind: this isn’t asking whether *you* believe the statement, but about whether you think you, or anyone, could answer yes or no to the question, “do you believe this?”

It’s probably a good idea to do this in two or three different sessions – maybe one page at a time, and then go do something else for a while and come back..

When you’ve finished, write a short explanation at the end of which one or two gave you the most trouble, and why.

- Yes* *No* *Depends* • People usually believe women over men (especially in sexual context)
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Women are only good for sex appeal and raising a family
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Men have power over women
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Trying to help people is not worth it.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • In the end, it's not a person's intention that matters the most, what matters is how the person affected perceived the situation.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Men beat women
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Woman are more vulnerable than men
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Nothing can be "true" without evidence
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Some cases of sexual harassment are overreactions
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Some women try to get men in trouble on purpose
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Someone can change over a few months (Or does it take longer than a few months to change?)

- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Innocent until proven guilty
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • False sexual harassment accusations happen
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Is dropping charges in order to get what you want good? (Or does it make it seem that the charges are not as important as you would think?)
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Every action has an equal and opposite reaction, *No* matter how small the initial action may be.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • There always has to be a "good guy" and a "bad guy"
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Groups have a big impact on people
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Unless you give a woman what she asks for, she will make your life miserable.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Cutting someone off signifies power over someone else. (or weakness)
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Unless you give people what they ask for, they will make your life miserable.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • You can't judge someone by a single incident.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • People don't necessarily change, but our views on who people are can change through the process of learning more about them.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Men are intellectually smarter and stronger than women
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Sexual harassment can happen in any environment.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Views of an event depend on the person; their background may cause something to appear worse in their mind than it would to someone else.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Sexual harassment happens more when the professor is male
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • What constitutes harassment is for the victim to decide.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • It is demeaning to call a grown woman "Baby."
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • There is "wrong" and "right" and there is *No* shades of grey
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • People do things only to better themselves

- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Stress can push you to do anything
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Women and men have equal rights
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Males in positions of power tend to mistreat the women under them in some way or another.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • A person that is backed by the power of a group tends to be far more powerful and confident than a lone individual.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Sexual inequality exists
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • If someone tells you they like you, that is good enough reason for you to trust them.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Women constantly and often over react
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Feminists are more likely to make a false claim and more like to look at a touch as sexual harassment
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • You must be punished for your wrong doings
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Men in power only have bad intentions/motives
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • One person's interpretation of a physical exchange/action can be completely different than the other person's
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • People learn to dominate by watching others
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Women play innocent to get what they want
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • In life as in *Oleanna*, there are *No* villains or heroes, only human souls.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Higher education is nothing more than an abusive ritual
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • False accusations of rape happen often and are a terrible problem.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Men always resort back to violence when offended
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Feminists are out to get men
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Men are more powerful than women and often hold positions of higher power

- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Expectations are meant to be broken
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Our thoughts are swayed by our emotions and the emotions of others
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Teachers can break the rules in order to accommodate certain students.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Blackmailing is wrong
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • A hand on the shoulder out of comfort can be considered sexual harassment to some people.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • People make mistakes and they should be forgiven
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Professor and student should not break the "artificial structure" of teacher and student.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Complete objectiveness in humans is impossible.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • All men are attracted to young, attractive women
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • You can never truly know someone or what their intentions are.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • What was believed to be sexual harassment back when this play was written is *No* longer considered such because society has become more allowing of sexual behaviours and tendencies.
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • Violence is never okay, and can never be justified
- Yes* *No* *Depends* • In terms of sexual harassment, courts tend to side with women

Which one or two gave you the most trouble? Why?