

Cassidy Foster

Mr. Durell

Social Studies Block E

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How the Concept of Transgender Changed The World

“There's a gender in your brain and a gender in your body” (“Chaz Bono Quotes”). The stereotype is that girls wear pink and play with dolls, boys wear blue and play with trucks. If you're a boy and you wear pink, you get looked at funny because that's not what your gender is “supposed” to wear. Some people don't feel this way, instead these people are known as Transgender: When a person is born either male or female but feels the opposite of their gender they are born with. Around 1.4 million people out of 326 million total people in America are transgender, not including the millions of others all around the world (Groskopf). Over 1.4 million people defied the originally known gender system.

Christine Jorgensen was the first documented person to come out to the public as transgender, in 1952. She had been a man who felt like a woman on the inside. This led her to undergo in a sex-change with surgery and hormone pills. Before this, no one really knew about transgender, and it was not known as something that happened (Mcquiston). If people had thoughts about feeling like they belonged to the opposite sex, they took drugs, or had therapy because people didn't know how to handle these thoughts and what they were (Kuklin).

If you haven't heard of Caitlyn Jenner, you've been under a rock for the past three years. How about Bruce Jenner? Most people would know the Kardashian family, Jenner was the father of the family until 2015 at age 65. She had kept this secret from everyone for 50 years! She felt

like people would judge and since she is known by millions, her fame would fanish, but it was the total opposite. The beginning of her fame came from the show Keeping Up With the Kardashians; which she starred in. The next year in 2015 Caitlyn came out to the public via twitter and other online social medias about her gender switch. After this her popularity was boosted, a lot of people were talking about it for months, and after a little while she left the show, and she divorced her wife Kris but, still sees her children (“Caitlyn Jenner”). Many people viewed the show Keeping Up With the Kardashians, and lots loved the whole family. Once all those viewers found out the news, people were shocked, some in an angered way, some in a exciting way (“Learn about Caitlyn Jenner”).

These past two people that have been talked about were both adults when coming out with their sex-change. Now imagine a young kid coming out to friends and family about wanting to be a girl. Kind of different right? Jazz Jennings was just five years old when she spoke out to the world that she wanted to be a girl not a boy on the show 20/20 in 2015 (“5 questions”). When she was in 3rd grade she was on a soccer team, but she was forced to play on the boys team because it would have been unfair for her to play on the girls team. Jennings got a two and a half year ban from playing soccer in her state because she wanted to play on the girls team not the boys team. Her parents then went to the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) and fought with them for a while until they lifted the ban, now anyone transgender can play on their self-designated gender team. Since then Jennings was an idol to young teenagers who were scared to come out of the closet. On social media and on television she repeatedly spoke out that you can be yourself, don't be afraid to be you (Walsh). Jennings and her family are owners of a company TransKids Purple Rainbow. This company is all about telling the world that Gender

Dysphoria is not something a person can control. Mainly this company is to help teens and children, and to tell others that there is nothing wrong with them, the kids should be able to be themselves and if anyone needs to change its society. A lot parents disown their children because they think their child is stupid for thinking this way, or some parents will make their kids take drugs or go to classes/camps to fix their “problem” when it really isn't a problem (Kulin).

TransKids Purple Rainbow has opened a lot of peoples eyes about transgender, and also helping parents with how to handle their child's life changing situation to make a happier home.

These three people all are from America so why don't we move onto some other countries. With all the progress America is making with passing laws for trans people, you would think this country is on top of things, but really it isn't. Argentina and Denmark are ahead of all countries when it comes to passing laws/trans rights. In 2012 Argentina passed a law of gender identity, thus meaning sex-change surgery was a legal right. Two years later Denmark passed the same law but you have to be over the age of 18. The next year Malta's government passed a Gender identity, Gender expression, and sex characteristics act meaning people who are trans get legal respect and privacy. America has only passed a few laws connecting to trans rights (Ansari), let's get on with it America!

In brief, who knew that our world could go beyond the original expectations of people? Different people changing the world in their own ways, changing the spectrum of how humans live everyday. In the millions of people in the world who are transgender, they all change the world for the better one step at a time. Jorgensen, Jenner, and Jennings are three amazing women who showed people that it is okay to be themselves, even if you are scared, there is always someone there.

Works Cited

Ansari, Azadeh. "Transgender Rights: These Countries Are Ahead of the US." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 23 Feb. 2017,
www.cnn.com/2017/02/23/health/transgender-laws-around-the-world/index.html.

I used this citation to site about some of the other countries and how their progress was with transgender rights. I was able to right a whole paragraph just on this one source.

"Caitlyn Jenner." *Biography.com*, A&E Networks Television, 5 Oct. 2016,
www.biography.com/people/caitlyn-jenner-307180.

This source helped a lot when writing about Caitlyn, I wrote about half a paragraph with this. It really gave me an insight into her life and transition.

"Chaz Bono Quotes." *BrainyQuote*, Xplore,
www.brainyquote.com/quotes/chaz_bono_437980?src.

I used this source for my hook because I thought a quote no one knew could be a good starter.

Groskopf, Christopher. "How Many People in the US Identify as Transgender?" *Quartz*, Quartz, 8 Jan. 2017, qz.com/880222/how-many-people-in-the-us-identify-as-transgender/

I used this source to help with my thesis with how many people identify as transgender. It would only give me the US so instead of saying 1.4 million in the US I said over 1.4 million people identify as transgender.

"Jazz Jennings: When I First Knew I Was Transgender." *Time*, Time,
time.com/4350574/jazz-jennings-transgender/.

This source and the one below were so helpful towards my paragraph about Jennings, so I was able to write almost two paragraphs about her. This source really gave me some good

information about her that the book didn't.

Jennings, Jazz. *Being Jazz: My Life as a Transgender Teen*. Ember, 2017.

Same with the source above, this book really gave me a lot of information and a medium summary of Jennings whole life so far.

Kuklin, Susan. *Beyond Magenta: Transgender Teens Speak Out*. Walker Books and Subsidiaries, 2016.

I loved this book and I had read it before deciding the topic of my paper, so when I wrote this paper I thought it would be a good idea to add in some parts from this book. I loved it because it had six different teenagers talk about their experiences as being transgender and some experiences more challenging than others. But the book definitely gave me some insight on the teens in our country.

“Learn about Caitlyn Jenner.” *Famous Birthdays*,

www.famousbirthdays.com/people/bruce-jenner.html.

I used this source to help with my paragraph about Jenner and it gave me a little bit of information and facts that the other source didn't.

Mcquiston, John T. “Christine Jorgensen, 62, Is Dead; Was First to Have a Sex Change.” *The New York*

I think this was my most needed source because Jorgensen was the first documented person to come out to the public with a sex-change. Sadly since this was a while ago there was not too much information on her. I was able to get an okay paragraph on her though.

Walsh, S.M. “Jazz Jennings: 5 Fast Facts You Need to Know.” *Heavy.com*, Heavy.com, 20 June 2017,

heavy.com/entertainment/2015/07/jazz-jennings-i-am-jazz-transgender-kid-purple-rainbow-foundation-tlc-youtube-tv/.

This website was a great help. In the book *Being Jazz* it talks about Jennings' company with her parents called TransKidsPurpleRainbow, which is a company that helps kids and their parents when going through this. I really liked this topic so I decided I should add in a little information about it.

“5 Questions About Jazz Jennings, Answered.” *InStyle.com*, 2017,

www.instyle.com/beauty/jazz-jennings-tlc

I used this source for a few more facts on Jennings, just to fill up my paragraph. It did actually give me some great facts on Jennings too.