

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

7

U N I T

UNIT 7: GAY MARRIAGE

From Philadelphia (1993), an acclaimed gay movie that broke ground for many other renowned big screens including another award-winning Brokeback Mountain (2006) to heart-wrenching The Holding Man (2017), the history has witnessed gays, or rather LGBTs (Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgenders) strives for social equality. Yet, it wasn't until June 2015 that LGBTs were able to celebrate their long-overdue victorious rights of gay marriage under Supreme Court ruling. No longer is marriage only for opposite-sex couples. Gays are entitled to this basic right, the right that is guaranteed by the Constitution. In this unit, we explore this important social issue.

1 BEFORE READING

- 1.1 Watch *Philadephia*, *Brokeback Mountain* or *The Holding Man* and discuss your impression of the film(s).
- 1.2 Watch short clips on civil right movements, women suffrage and gays right movement. Then, discuss in groups how history has witnessed fights for equality over the time and in what way each issue is different.

2 THE MAIN TEXT

Directions: Read the following text on gay marriage. Then complete the exercises that follow.

VOCABULARY

- ✓ (v) deny possession of
- ✓ (adj) surpassing ordinary
- ✓ (n) the state of being honoured
- ✓ (n) a mark of shame
- ✓ (adj) of lower status
- ✓ (n) an act of rejoicing
- ✓ (n) public disagreement with an official opinion, decision, or set of beliefs
- ✓ (v) to mention (someone or something) in an attempt to make people feel a certain way or have a certain idea in their mind
- ✓ (n) something that provides protection for or against something

A Profound Ruling Delivers Justice on Gay Marriage

By THE EDITORIAL BOARD JUNE 26, 2015

The New York Times

To the list of landmark Supreme Court decisions reaffirming the power and the scope of the Constitution's guarantee of equal protection under the law — from *Brown v. Board of Education* to *Loving v. Virginia* to *United States v. Windsor* — we can now add *Obergefell v. Hodges*. (1)

In a profound and inspiring opinion expanding human rights across America, and bridging the nation's past to its present, Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote: "The right to marry is a fundamental right inherent in the liberty of the person, and under the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the Fourteenth Amendment couples of the same sex may not be **deprived of that right and that liberty**." (2)

As news of the ruling came out on Friday morning, opponents of same-sex marriage struggled to fathom how the country they thought they understood could so rapidly pass them by. But, in fact, the court's decision fits comfortably within the arc of American legal history. (3)

As Justice Kennedy explained, the Constitution's power and endurance rest in the Constitution's ability to evolve along with the nation's consciousness. In that service, the court itself "has recognized that new insights and societal understandings can reveal unjustified inequality within our most fundamental institutions that once passed unnoticed and unchallenged." (4)

For gays and lesbians who have waited so long for the court to recognize their relationships as equal to opposite-sex relationships, it was a remember-where-you-were-when-it-happened moment. (5)

Addressing what he called "the **transcendent** importance of marriage," Justice Kennedy wrote that "through its enduring bond, two persons together can find other freedoms, such as expression, intimacy, and spirituality. This is true for all persons, whatever their sexual orientation. There is **dignity** in the bond between two men or two women who seek to marry and in their autonomy to make such profound choices." (6)

Justice Kennedy's focus on dignity and equality has been central to his majority opinion in each of the court's three earlier gay rights cases. In 1996, the court held that states cannot deny gays, lesbians and bisexual people legal protection from discrimination. In 2003, it held that states cannot ban consensual sexual relations between people of the same sex. And in 2013, it struck down the heart of a federal law defining marriage as between one man and one woman. (7)

In Friday's ruling, Justice Kennedy emphasized the dignity and equality not only of same-sex couples, but of their families and children. "Without the recognition, stability, and predictability marriage offers," he wrote, the children of these couples "suffer the **stigma** of knowing their families are somehow lesser." (8)

President Obama, who opposed same-sex marriage in his first presidential campaign but announced in 2012 that he had changed his mind, said the decision "affirms what

millions of Americans already believe in their hearts: “When all Americans are treated as equal, we are all more free.” (9)

And yet, in the midst of all the hard-earned **jubilation** surrounding the decision, it was difficult not to think of the people who did not live to see this day. (10)

People like John Arthur, who died in October 2013, only months after he married his partner of more than 20 years, Jim Obergefell, on the tarmac of Baltimore-Washington International Airport. They lived in Cincinnati, but Ohio would not let them marry; voters there had passed a **constitutional ban** on same-sex marriage in 2004. As Mr. Arthur lay on a stretcher, dying of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, he and Mr. Obergefell took a private medical jet to Maryland, where same-sex marriage is legal. They were married in a brief ceremony and then flew home. (11)

When Ohio officials refused to put Mr. Obergefell’s name on his husband’s death certificate, he sued. Last November, the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit ruled against him and other couples challenging bans in Michigan, Kentucky and Tennessee. Same-sex marriage, the court said, is a “social issue” for voters, and not the courts, to decide. Friday’s decision reversed that ruling. (12)

The humane grandeur of the majority’s opinion stands out all the more starkly in contrast to the bitter, mocking small-mindedness of the **dissents**, one each by Chief Justice John Roberts Jr., and Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito Jr. and Antonin Scalia. (13)

Faced with a simple statement of human equality, the dissenters groped and scratched for a way to reject it. (14)

The chief justice compared the ruling to some of the most notorious decisions in the court’s history, including *Dred Scott v. Sandford*, the 1857 ruling holding that black people could not be American citizens and that Congress could not outlaw slavery in the territories; and *Lochner v. New York*, a 1905 case that is widely rejected today as an example of justices imposing their own preferences in place of the law. (15)

He invoked the traditional understanding of marriage, which he ascribed to, among others, Kalahari bushmen, the Carthaginians and the Aztecs. But Justice Kennedy had a ready reply: “The limitation of marriage to opposite-sex couples may long have seemed natural and just, but its inconsistency with the central meaning of the fundamental right to marry is now manifest.” (16)

Justice Scalia mocked the ruling as a “**judicial Putsch**” and a threat to American democracy. “This is a naked judicial claim to legislative — indeed, super-legislative — power,” he wrote. “A system of government that makes the people subordinate to a committee of nine unelected lawyers does not deserve to be called a democracy.” (17)

But that rant is wholly wrong. In American democracy, the judicial branch is the great **bulwark** against a majority’s refusal to recognize a minority’s fundamental constitutional rights. As Justice Kennedy wrote, “An individual can **invoke** a right to constitutional protection when he or she is harmed, even if the broader public disagrees and even if the legislature refuses to act.” (18)

As gratifying as Friday’s ruling is, remember that equality won by a single vote. (19)

And within minutes of the ruling, there was resistance by some officials around the country. Louisiana’s attorney general, James Caldwell, said his state, one of 13 that still bans same-sex marriage, is not required to issue licenses to same-sex couples because

the Supreme Court has not yet released an explicit order. Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin, a Republican presidential candidate, called for a **constitutional amendment** allowing states to ban same-sex marriage. (20)

Meanwhile, the dwindling number of Americans who oppose same-sex marriage have shifted tactics to rely on so-called **religious-freedom laws**, which they say allow them to, among other things, decline to provide business services for same-sex weddings. (21)

Justice Kennedy said that Americans who disagree with same-sex marriage, for religious or other reasons, have the freedom to believe and to speak as they wish. “But when that sincere, personal opposition becomes enacted law and public policy, the necessary consequence is to put the imprimatur of the state itself on an exclusion that soon demeans or stigmatizes those whose own liberty is then denied.” (22)*₃

Still, the court did not give sexual orientation a special status, like race or gender, which would provide stronger protection against discriminatory laws. (23)

More than four decades ago, a male couple in Hennepin County, Minn., applied for a marriage license and was denied. When their lawsuit reached the Supreme Court, the justices dismissed it “for want of a substantial federal question.” (24)

In the years since, Americans’ attitudes toward gays and lesbians and the right to marry have changed dramatically. Before Friday’s ruling, same-sex marriage was already legal in 36 states and the District of Columbia, representing more than 70 percent of all Americans. A solid and growing majority now believes in marriage equality; among those ages 18 to 29, support is at nearly 80 percent. (25)

Around the world the change has come even faster. Since 2000, 20 countries — from Argentina to Belgium to South Africa — have legalized same-sex marriage. In May, an Irish referendum on legalization won the support of nearly two-thirds of voters. (26)

Justice Kennedy’s opinion will affect the course of American history, and it will change lives starting now. (27)

2.1 COMPREHENDING THE TEXT

Directions: Briefly answer the following questions.

- 1 What is the significance of the three landmark cases mentioned in paragraph 1?

- 2 What are the main arguments Justice Anthony Kennedy use in his decision?

- 3 Why is same-sex marriage also important for the children of same-sex couples? (paragraph 7)

4 What are the main arguments in favor of same-sex marriage? (Paragraphs 7-8)

5 What is the dissents' argument mentioned in the text? (Paragraph 16)

6 What is the writer's main concern about same-sex marriage in paragraph 20?

2.2 DEVELOPING READING SKILLS

2.2.1 THE WRITER'S THESIS AND THE WRITER'S POINTS

1 What is the writer's thesis?

2 What are the writer's points?

P.	Structure	The writer's points
1	Introduction	The Supreme Court ruled in Obergefell v. Hodges same-sex marriage is protected under the Constitution.
2-8	BODY	Justice Kennedy centres his ruling in favor of same-sex marriage on the ground of dignity and equality.
9		President Obama, formerly opposed gay marriage, also supports the ruling.
10-11		There have been so many couples including John Arthur and Jim Obergefell who have fought this long battle.
12-17		The dissents' counter-arguments focus on the traditional view of marriage as opposite-sex union and the right of Justice in ruling social issue.

P.	Structure	The writer's points
18		Justice Kennedy's refutation centres around the changing society and the obligation of the Supreme Court in equality protection.
19-21		Negative reactions in some states banning same-sex marriage were spurred by the ruling.
22-23		Justice Kennedy acknowledges religious freedom, yet disagrees with the idea of passing law demeaning gay rights.
24-27	Conclusion	Worldwide gay rights have become more accepted and it is hopeful that lives of gay people would be easier.

2.2.2 THE TEXT ORGANISATION AND THE WRITER'S REFUTATION

The writer sets out in paragraph 1 by placing the case of Obergefell V. Hodges in the series of cases that Supreme Court ruled in favor, suggesting how significant and meaningful the case is in the face of American history. He carries on in paragraph 2 with Justice Kennedy's quotes in his ruling in favour of same sex marriage, the two arguments focusing on equality and dignity. These discussed in paragraphs 3-9 at great length.

Then, in honour of Jim Obergefell and his late partner, the writer in paragraphs 10-12 gives the reader the background of the two men and their historic case.

Later, the writer goes back to his discussion on dissent Justices' reactions. As shown in the table below, the writer addresses counter-arguments by Justice Scalia in paragraphs 15-17. Following these he presents Justice Kennedy's refutation in paragraph 18. The writer voices concerns over resistance outside the courtroom in paragraphs 19-21. He quotes Justice Kennedy's remarks in response to those opponents who turn to so-called religious-freedom laws in paragraph 22.

In his closing paragraphs, the writer discusses the global trends in the improved attitudes on same-sex marriage and reaffirms Supreme Court welcoming ruling.

To sum up, the writer's thesis is supported mainly by argument, which essentially is the Supreme Court ruling. In that we see how Justice Kennedy based his decision in favour of same-sex marriage on equality and dignity.

Next, let's examine the counter-arguments for same-sex marriage as Justice Kennedy put them in paragraphs 14-15 and 17-18.

Counter-arguments (i.e. Justice Scalia)	Refutation (i.e. Justice Kennedy)
a. _____ _____ _____ (P 16)	a. It's now clear that the traditional view of marriage limited to opposite-sex couples is inconsistent with the basic right that everyone is entitled to. (P 16)
b. _____ _____ (P 17)	b. It is the duty of judicial body in relieving the plight for inequality affecting any group in the society. (P 17)

2.2.3 INDUCTIVE AND DEDUCTIVE REASONING

In the previous readings, we have seen a few instances of 'inductive reasoning' where generalisation based on premises becomes the writer's claim or conclusion. This reading is mainly about the interpretation 'equality of rights' under the Constitution. This is an excellent example as to how 'deductive reasoning' is properly employed. Let's look at the way Justice Kennedy adopts 'deductive reasoning' in his ruling in favor of same-sex marriage in paragraph 2.

Premise: The right to marry is a fundamental right inherent in the liberty of the person.

Premise: The right to marry is a fundamental right inherent under the Due Process.

Premise: The right to marry is a fundamental right inherent under Equal Protection Clauses of The Fourteenth Amendment.

Conclusion: _____

In deductive reasoning, the premises ascertain the truth of the conclusion.

Let's look at another example of deductive reasoning in paragraph 8.

In Friday's ruling, Justice Kennedy emphasized the dignity and equality not only of same-sex couples, but of their families and children. "Without the recognition, stability, and predictability marriage offers," he wrote, the children of these couples "suffer the stigma of knowing their families are somehow lesser."

What is the undesirable situation facing children of same-sex couples?

These children feel lesser. Why so? Because their parents are not able to get married.

Now, we are ready to work out the syllogism of this argument.

Premise: Marriage of opposite-sex couples offers their children the recognition, stability, and predictability.

Premise: Same-sex parents can't get married.

Conclusion: Children of same-sex couples suffer the stigma of knowing their families are somehow lesser.

Here, Justice Kennedy argues that to grant same-sex couples the right to get married is to ensure that their children wouldn't feel lesser.

2.2.4 THE WRITER'S PURPOSE

1 What is the writer's purpose in quoting President Obama?

As mentioned before, the main persuasive technique the writer employs is reasoning. And such reasoning is drawn by Supreme Court Justice Kennedy, who, by himself, is an authority. We don't see any other authority being cited except for the former President Obama.

2 What persuasive technique does the writer aim at in giving the anecdotal evidence in paragraphs 11-12? Why so?

Appeals to emotion is not evident in this text, yet reading about the couple whose fight has led to the new chapter of marriage can be moving.

3 What point does the writer want to make in citing the cases of Louisiana and Wisconsin?

In Louisiana, it is claimed that an explicit order from Supreme Court is required before they would issue licenses to gay couples while in Wisconsin, there is a movement for a constitutional amendment so that states can ban same-sex marriage.

2.2.5 THE WRITER'S ATTITUDE AND TONE OF VOICE

1 What is the writer's attitude towards the dissents? (Paragraphs 13-14)

His word choice includes 'bitter, mocking, small-minded (paragraph 13) and groped and scratched (paragraph 14) clearly shows his critical tone.

2 *The chief justice compared the ruling to some of the most 'notorious' decisions in the court's history...* (Paragraph 15)

What does 'notorious' convey the writer's opinion of reasoning put forward by the chief justice?

'Notorious' means 'famous or well known for something bad' (Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English). Not only does the writer hold no reservation in his criticism of the chief justice by his use of the word, but he also makes known his view by emphasising the view with the quotation marks'.

3 *As gratifying as Friday's ruling is, remember that equality won by a single vote.* (Paragraph 19)

What tone of voice does the writer use?

4 What tone of voice does the writer set in paragraphs 25-27?

2.2.6 INFERENCES

- 1 ... , it was a remember-where-you-were-when-it-happened moment. (Paragraph 5)

What can be inferred about the court decision on Obergefell V. Hodges, particularly for LGBT community?

- 2 *As gratifying as Friday's ruling is, remember that equality won by a single vote.* (Paragraph 19)

What can be inferred from the statement?

When the writer cautions the reader in this way, we know that many of the Justices disagree on same-sex marriage. We could also assume that the members of the public too do not support same-sex marriage.

- 3 What is the writer's main concern about same-sex marriage in paragraph 20?
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- 4 What can be inferred about how LGBTs will be treated given the current situation? (paragraph 23)
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1* They are landmark cases where the Supreme Court decided the Constitution's guarantee 'equal protection' under the law. In *Brown v. Board of Education*, Supreme Court ruled segregation of education was unconstitutional; In *Loving v. Virginia*, interracial marriage was guaranteed, in *United States v. Windsor*, restricting marriage as unions between opposite sex was also unconstitutional. And finally, in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, fundamental right to marry was guaranteed for same-sex couples. *The federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), which was struck down in *Windsor*, and the state bans on same-sex marriage, struck down in *Obergefell*.

(<http://www.hrc.org/blog/windsor-and-obergefell-marriage-equality-as-equal-dignity>)

*2 The original reads 'Many who deem same-sex marriage to be wrong reach that conclusion based on decent and honorable religious or philosophical premises, and neither they nor their beliefs are disparaged here. But when that sincere, personal opposition becomes enacted law and public policy, the necessary consequence is to put the imprimatur of the State itself on an exclusion that soon demeans or stigmatizes those whose own liberty is then denied. Under the Constitution, same-sex couples seek in marriage the same legal treatment as opposite-sex couples, and it would disparage their choices and diminish their personhood to deny them this right'.

The gist of this is Justice Kennedy disagrees with enacting the law denying gays rights based on their religious belief. He maintains that to exclude same-sex couples in exercising their right to marriage is to be unfair to these gay people.

3 FURTHER READING

The 2015 Supreme Court ruling affirming the equal right to marriage of same-sex couples received a warm welcome by LGBTs community, probably not only in the U.S. The LGBTs deem the decision their monumental victory, one they certainly earn after long series of legal battles. How has the ruling improved their lives, how differently they have been treated? Specifically, have the public changed their view and treat LGBTs with equality? Let' s look at the current chapter of LGBTs in the following article.

VOCABULARY

- ✓ (n) a feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements-used to show disapproval
- ✓ (v) make (someone) feel deceptively secure or confident.
- ✓ (n) act of interest, enthusiasm, or concern
- ✓ (v) expose the falseness or hollowness of (an idea or belief)

Oxford Dictionary

The Gay Rights Letdown Is Here

<http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2016/01/21/the-gay-rights-letdown-is-here.html?via=mobile&source=email>

A new GLAAD poll shows that many Americans thought marriage equality was the pinnacle of LGBT rights.

The honeymoon is over. (1)

Same-sex marriage was legalized nationwide last year in a landmark Supreme Court ruling but, as we enter 2016, new data from GLAAD shows that many Americans believe *Obergefell v. Hodges* was the finish line for LGBT equality. (2)

Half of all non-LGBT Americans believe that gay people currently have the same rights as everyone else, according to a Harris Poll survey of over 2,000 adults commissioned by GLAAD for its second annual *Accelerating Acceptance* report. (3)

The findings only get more disheartening from there. Nearly 30 percent of non-LGBT respondents said they feel uncomfortable when they see a same-sex couple

holding hands or learn that their child's teacher is LGBT. A quarter of them believe that high rates of depression and suicide among LGBT people are "not serious" and 27 percent said the same about violence against transgender people. (4)

These numbers are an improvement from last year but not by much. Many fell by only a few percentage points and some—like discomfort with LGBT history lessons being taught in schools or at seeing an LGBT co-worker's wedding photo—were virtually unchanged. In 2016, it may be legal for a lesbian to get married but she will still likely pause before planting a picture of her spouse on her desk. (5)

Over a third of non-LGBT respondents to the Harris Poll survey—36 percent—said that social acceptance of LGBT people wasn't a serious problem, even though many of their own survey responses ironically prove that it still is. (6)

Even non-LGBT people who described feeling "very or somewhat comfortable" in various situations involving LGBT people—having an LGBT family member, going to church with LGBT people, etc.—had some striking apathy issues. Thirty-seven percent of this subset neither agreed nor disagreed with the following statement: "It is best for a child to be raised by a mother and a father as opposed to two fathers or two mothers." Once again, this misperception only takes a few clicks to debunk: Columbia Law School's "What We Know" Project found that 73 of 77 scholarly studies on this subject concluded that children of gay and lesbian parents "fare no worse than other children." (7)

"Complacency is the enemy of social progress," said GLAAD CEO & President Sarah Kate Ellis in a statement accompanying the report. "2015 was a monumental year for the LGBT community, but marriage equality is a benchmark—not a finish line. The hard work of legislative change must go hand in hand with that which cannot be decided in a courtroom: changing hearts and minds." (8)

The facts about the current state of LGBT acceptance are easy enough to consult: Over half of all states have no statewide employment non-discrimination law covering sexual orientation or gender identity. Lesbian, gay, and bisexual youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide than straight kids, and a quarter of transgender youth have made an attempt. Twenty-one transgender people, primarily young transgender women of color, were murdered in the U.S. last year—the highest recorded number in history. Those numbers don't lie, and there are plenty of other sobering statistics where they came from. (9)

But the bitter truth is that we saw this apathy coming. (10)

When same-sex marriage was legalized by the Supreme Court last June, leaders of major LGBT organizations in the U.S. told *The Daily Beast* that their fight was far from over, citing a wide range of remaining issues including employment discrimination, anti-transgender violence, school bullying, detention of LGBT immigrants, bisexual acceptance, and LGBT youth homelessness. (11)

“These are issues that are pressing, they’re very concerning, and they need attention,” Executive Director Helen Kennedy said of Canada’s largest and oldest LGBT national LGBT organisation Egale’s current work. “But everyone says, ‘You have marriage.’” (12)

“The Coming Gay Rights Letdown,” as The Daily Beast labeled it at the time, is here. (13)

In 2012, same-sex marriage was a critical social issue at the heart of the U.S. presidential election. In 2016, LGBT issues have largely been absent from even the Democratic primary debates. Marriage was definitely not the most important issue facing LGBT Americans, but it was certainly the most discussed. The current silence is telling. (14)

“GLAAD’s findings point to a culture of complacency, wherein the non-LGBT public is under the false and potentially dangerous impression that the work for LGBT equality is done,” the report notes. (15)

GLAAD believes that the furor around the legalization of same-sex marriage may have even stalled public knowledge of LGBT issues, at least temporarily. Their report on the Harris Poll data speculates that people may believe gay people have more rights than they do “perhaps because marriage equality was so widely covered by the media in 2015.” If the media treats marriage as a synonym for civil rights, then why wouldn’t public perception follow suit? (16)

In a related finding, respondents who were more uncomfortable with LGBT people were much more likely to say that they “receive more attention today than other minority communities,” suggesting that some bristle at the continuing coverage of these issues post-Obergefell. (17)

But however much media attention LGBT people receive, it’s apparently not enough to convince Americans that their problems are real. Fifty-one percent of this “uncomfortable” subset said that LGBT social acceptance was not a serious problem. Surprise, surprise. (18)

There is still hope, however distant, at the end of the rainbow: Younger Americans are much more likely to be accepting of LGBT people. (19)

GLAAD’s report divided non-LGBT respondents into “allies,” “detached supporters,” and “resisters” based on their self-described comfort level with LGBT people. Younger generations were disproportionately more likely to be “allies,” with those aged 18 to 24 comprising 5 percent of all “resisters” in the sample despite making up 10 percent of the population at large. (20)

Adults between the ages of 45 and 64, on the other hand, were disproportionately more likely to be categorized as “resisters.” In fact, adults between 45 and 54

constituted a quarter of all “resisters” even though they are only 16.4 percent of the total population. (21)

Given these trends, the eventual acceptance of LGBT people seems inevitable. How slowly we get there is a different story. At the current rate, a future when a same-sex couple can hold hands in public with perfect ease is still years away. (22)

3.1 COMPREHENDING THE TEXT

Directions: Briefly answer the questions that follow.

1 What point does the information in paragraphs 4-6 prove?

2 In your own words summarise the problems still inflicting LGBT people. (paragraph 8)

a

b

c

3 What might non-LGBT people feel when they say ‘You have marriage’? (paragraph 16)

4 ‘... people may believe gay people have more rights than they do perhaps because marriage equality was so widely covered by the media in 2015.’ (paragraph 21)

Discuss if this belief is good or bad for LGBT cause.

3.2 DEVELOPING READING SKILLS

3.2.1 THE WRITER’S THESIS AND THE WRITER’S POINTS

1 What is the writer’s thesis?

The title of the text somewhat hints us that something is wrong about gay rights and we learn more when reading the lead-in. It talks about the public view of gay rights—the public hold the view that for LGBTs, once they have marriage equality, they have got what they want. However, the writer keeps repeating in the text that even with legal endorsement of same-sex marriage, in real life LGBTs face inequality in many ways and that they cannot stop fighting until they get social equality they are entitled to.

2 What are the writer's points?

P.	Structure	The writer's points
1-3	Introduction	GLADD poll shows many believe gays have equal rights after the Supreme Court ruling in favor of same-sex marriage.
4-7	BODY	In reality, the general public's view of LGBTs haven't changed much.
8-9		The action needed is to change hearts and minds.
10-12		LGBTs discrimination have been evident even before the ruling.
13-15		The same-sex marriage ruling has lured the public into false impression of LGBT acceptance.
16		The ruling and continuing coverage of Obergefell case don't seem to work in favor of LGBTs movement either.
17-19		Americans do not realise the fact about discrimination against LGBT community.
20-22	Conclusion	With young Americans being more open about LGBTs, there is some hope that LGBTs will eventually be accepted.

3.2.2 THE TEXT STRUCTURE AND THE WRITERS' ARGUMENTS

The writer is very direct in delivering the message she aims at from the beginning. 'The honeymoon is over'. She wants to snap the audience out of their dream, pulling them back to the reality'. He goes on with all hard facts in paragraphs 3-7. All data prove the idea that the public haven't much changed their views on LGBTs. Social acceptance still is a problem for them.

She gets to her thesis in paragraph 8 where she quotes GLAAD CEO & President Ellis saying 'complacency is the enemy of social progress'. Again, after presenting her point in paragraph 8, she carries on with hard facts, which in her terms 'numbers don't lie...' (paragraph 9). The writer cites two more authorities who voice the same concern about apathy to strengthen her view, in paragraph 12 and paragraph 16. The writer's use of authority and data appear hand in hand throughout the body paragraphs which end in paragraph 23.

Finally, the writer concludes her article in a positive and hopeful tone with 'There is still hope, however distant, at the end of the rainbow' (paragraph 24). She cites data again to support the view that the younger generation are more opening to LGBT people.

To sum up the writer argues that LGBT acceptance is a problem and backs up her claim using the inductive reasoning and citing authorities.

3.2.3 THE WRITER'S PURPOSE

What is the writer's main purpose in writing the article?

From paragraph 7 to paragraph 13, the writer emphasises her calling for continuing movements for true social acceptance of LGBT people. She backs her claim up with statistics which prove that the reality and the result of survey about the public opinion of LGBT are at odds.

3.2.4 INDUCTIVE AND DEDUCTIVE REASONING

"The victories will be sweet and some people will declare the movement over—but they will be wrong." (P.12)

What kind of reasoning does the writer use to suggest the idea?

Let's examine the reasoning in details. The writer suggests the LGBT community may think that their fights are over. And they will be wrong in thinking so. In other words, the writer says that the movement must go on.

In the syllogism below, fill in the missing part.

Unstated premise: Movement for social equality and social acceptance of LGBT people is needed.

Premise: _____

Conclusion: The movement must go on.

3.2.5 THE WRITER'S ATTITUDE AND TONE OF VOICE

1 What tone does the writer set from the beginning?

2 'Honeymoon' is used metaphorically. What is its meaning in this context? (P.1)

3 'Half of all non-LGBT Americans believe that gay people currently have the same rights as everyone else'. The writer carries on with the stats that may sound promising, yet the message that comes next is to the contrary. Note that the writer explicitly states her disappointment in the following paragraph.

What is ironic about the findings mentioned in paragraph 3 and paragraph 4?

4 What probably does the writer feel about the result of the survey? (P.3 and 4)

5 'A finish line' is a stance of figurative language used in paragraph 7. Identify its kind and explain the meaning as applied in this context.

6 What is the respondents' attitude towards the whole attention the media have been giving to LGBT people? (P. 22)

7 '*Surprise, surprise*'. (P. 24)

What tone does the writer set in the paragraph?

3.2.6 PARAPHRASING

There are quite a few ideas worth looking as paraphrasing practice. Let's examine them together.

1 *Once again, this misperception only takes a few clicks to debunk.* (P.7)

To properly paraphrase the statement, we need to define the 'misconception' in this sentence. So, one possible paraphrase could be 'It takes such a simple search to find out that actually a child raised by same-sex couples performs as well as their peers'.

- 2 “2015 was a monumental year for the LGBT community, but marriage equality is a benchmark—not a finish line. The hard work of legislative change must go hand in hand with that which cannot be decided in a courtroom: changing hearts and minds.” (P.8)

This line very well captures the writer’s aim in encouraging the LGBTs to keep fighting for their cause. Basically, the writer says that ‘With Supreme Court ruling in favor of same-sex marriage, the LGBT community could certainly enjoy the victory, but they must be aware that outside the courtroom, they still need to fight for social acceptance’.

- 3 *Same-sex marriage could lull the U.S. into a false sense of security.* (P. 14)

Paraphrase the statement.

- 4 “The Coming Gay Rights Letdown,” as The Daily Beast labeled it at the time, is here. (P. 18)

This same line is used as the title of the article. We could paraphrase the sentence as ‘We’ve come to the age when gay rights are not given emphasis anymore’.

3.2.7 INFERENCES

- 1 What do the facts say about the current state of LGBT acceptance? (P.11 and P.14)

- 2 But everyone says, ‘You have marriage.’ (P.17)

According to the above statement, what unintentional, negative consequence has come with gay marriage?

- 3 *In 2016, it may be legal for a lesbian to get married but she will still likely pause before planting a picture of her spouse on her desk.* (P. 5)

What can be inferred about public acceptance of LGBT from the above statement?

- 4 What is the paradox/contradiction in paragraphs 6-7?

- 5 What might non-LGBT people feel when they say ‘You have marriage’? (P. 16)

6 The writer repeats the words ‘complacency’ (P. 7 and 18) and ‘silence’ (P. 19). Explain why this notion is important to the writer’s argument?

7 In her conclusion, the writer notes that it would be some time before LGBT could feel comfortable expressing their affection in public. (P. 27)

Is the writer’s comment justified? Discuss briefly.

4 WRITING A SUMMARY

Pick either *A Profound Ruling Delivers Justice on Gay Marriage* or *The Gay Rights Letdown is here* and write a critical summary of the text. Remember that you need to start with the brief summary of the text—the writer’s thesis, his arguments and her conclusion. Then, add your analysis of her arguments.

5 WRITING A JOURNAL

- 1 Gays or ‘Kra Thoey’ are always given a heroine supporting role in Thai soap operas. Choose the gay characters from two soap operas, analyse these characters in terms of their personality portrayed in the soaps. Then, discuss in writing if their portrayal in the shows boosts or weakens the images of gays and/or LGBTs.
- 2 Find two feature articles that focus on the life of LGBTs from established sources. Choose one recently written and one written a decade ago. Analyse the two texts, and discuss in writing how the Thai public view of LGBTs has changed over a decade.

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