Name of Student

Name of Professor

Name of Class

Day Month Year

**LGBT Theory and American Dream**

***Discussion Questions***

**1.** The film worked towards exposing how society has constructed genders and how people feel obliged to affirm those standards created by society so that in return they are accepted by the people around them. Furthermore, it highlights how important is biological sex in societies that are enshrined in their rigid cultures. These societies where the existence of anyone other than the two genders (male and female) that are more commonly thought of, is a crime. Societies where people take such issues into their hands and cause suffering for those either whom they do not wish to understand or for whom they do not have the mental capacity to understand.

It is hard to admit but these types of societies are very much prevalent in this day and age. Their thoughts and actions make people believe that the only way to achieve the American dream is to hide what you truly are. This was very much prevalent in the main character in this movie (Brandon Teena) who has to do every bit of effort to prove his masculinity all because he was a transgender. He went to great lengths to accomplish this e.g. he hides his breasts, changes his name and so on. All this so he can be accepted by his society but at the end all this effort did not amount to anything.

**2.** Brokeback Mountain was truly an eye opening experience, with its layered characters and how subtly it touched the struggles of the LGBT community. Furthermore, it highlighted how dangerous it could be for LGBT members to even think or try to have a piece of the American Dream in those times. This was illustrated when Jack Twist proposed to Ennis del Mar that they both should fix up a ranch and live on it together. He planned it all out including what they will have at the ranch and why he wanted to move in with Ennis. He even detailed how easy it will be to get the money from his wife's father as he was very keen on getting him out of their lives.

Ennis was completely against this idea and rejected it immediately. His rejection had rooted from different reasons; some of those were his own problems and some he had seen in the society. In a way i feel that Ennis reaction to Jack’s proposal was justified (Goody,et,al,2017). This is because it is hard to come out to your loved ones as an LGBT in this day and age let alone the 1960’s. The time that Jack and Ennis were living in was full of animosity and had very less acceptance of anyone or anything that went against the social norm. This was prevalent from the stories that Ennis told of his father and his reaction to the death of two supposed LGBT people living together.

**3.** Over the years I have had the experience to listen to the experiences of different people who had been discriminated against for a myriad of reasons. But the one I can remember more vividly mostly because this happened recently to two of my friends, Sara and Kentina. They both recently got married to each other and had a wedding ceremony which was held in New Jersey (Keller,et,al,2008). They are one of the best people I have had the chance to meet and be a part of their beautiful journey. While looking for a wedding planner for their ceremony they came across a prospective candidate. They both liked her ideas and wanted to hire her but she declined on the basis that the meaning of marriage for her was of the biblical nature and what they are proposing is illegitimate.

This discrimination was definitely not justified as i know that both my friends are Christian ministers and it is their faith that animates their love for each other even more. This sort of ideological discrimination is on par with discrimination based on race, class, religion and gender. Furthermore, this sexual discrimination is not a hindrance to attaining the American dream but the collective thinking of the society is which will not let anyone have peace and happiness that is against their normative values.

Work Cited

Keller, James R., and Anne Goodwyn Jones. "Brokeback mountain: masculinity and manhood." *Studies in Popular Culture* 30.2 (2008): 21-36.

Goody, Jo. "Boys don’t cry: Masculinities, fear of crime and fearlessness." *The Fear of Crime*. Routledge, 2017. 59-76.