

## Task 4 – Resource Material

### Right and Left Wing - What Does it Mean?

**Left wing beliefs** are usually progressive in nature, they look to the future, aim to support those who cannot support themselves, are idealist and believe in equality. People who are left wing believe in taxation to redistribute opportunity and wealth - things like a national health service, and job seeker's allowance are fundamentally left wing ideas. They believe in equality over the freedom to fail.

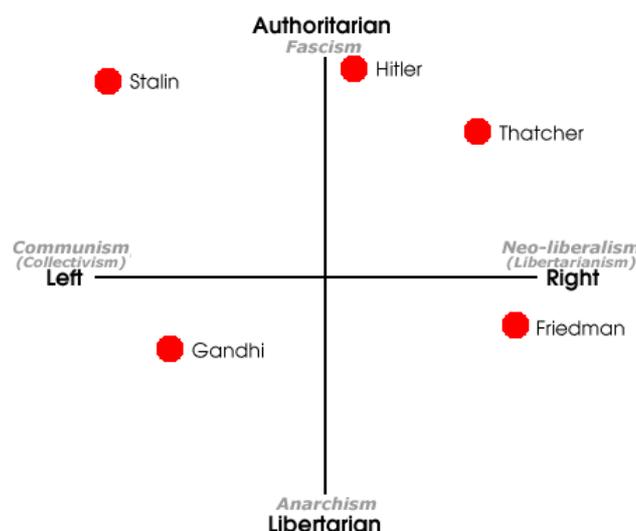
**In the UK** the main left wing parties are the Labour Party and the Green Party. They believe in making laws that protect women, ethnic minorities, and gay people against discrimination. They believe that we should tax rich people more to support people less well off, and they believe we should regulate big businesses so they serve people's interests. They believe that a good welfare system means people are healthier, more able to work, and will put more back into the economy. They also typically believe country-wide tax-funded action on climate change is necessary.

**Right wing beliefs** value tradition, they are about equity, survival of the fittest, and they believe in economic freedom. They typically believe that business shouldn't be regulated, and that we should all look after ourselves. Right wing people tend to believe they shouldn't have to pay for someone else's education or health service. They believe in freedom to succeed over equality.

**In the UK** the main right wing parties are the Conservative (or Tory) Party, and UKIP (who focus on the UK not being a part of the European Union). They believe that if you have more money, you should get to keep it, and buy better education and health services for yourself. They believe that businesses should be less regulated, and that the more money they earn, they'll bring more benefits to the country. In 2008 2/3 of Tory MPs didn't think climate change was a priority, but their leadership says it's important. They are more likely to focus on energy security (oil and gas are set to run out very soon, and they won't want to rely on other countries).

**Extreme versions of either have caused the deaths of many.**

**The Liberal Democrats** (Lib Dems) are another major party in the UK but people often argue about where they fall, politically. They have some traditionally left wing ideas, and some right wing ones as well, for simplicity I have put them in the middle of this diagram.



## RELATIONSHIPS

*Our No-Fail Guide to Meeting the Parents: What to Wear, What to Say, and What to Not Do EVER. Don't worry. They're gonna love you.*

OCT 27, 2014 2:40PM EDT

Yay! The guy or gal you're seeing likes you so much they're ready to level up the relationship—it's time to meet the parents. But before you go for it, consider this: Getting mom and dad's endorsement is *almost* as important as getting your significant other to like you, especially if you see a future with him or her. When you knock a meet-the-parents-moment out of the park, you're less likely to experience any *Romeo & Juliet* star-crossed lover stuff down the line. So what's the key to a no-fail first impression with the folks? We've got a few Dos & Don'ts...

### **Do dress sophisticated, not sexy.**

Repeat after us: Moms and dads do not want to see your lady bits. If you're going out to a nice restaurant, wear a cute dress that doesn't show too much skin, or if it's a more casual meeting (say, a cup of coffee over parents' weekend) jeans and a cute top with a jacket is always a safe bet. It's also important that your outfit makes you feel confident—you only get to make a first impression once!—so for that reason, we grant you permission to go shopping for this occasion. You're welcome.

### **Don't be kissy or handsy.**

Think about when you see one of your girlfriends making out with someone. It's pretty gross, right? Now, imagine if that was your son or daughter. Double ick. Keep the smooches to yourself and the touching to a minimum (i.e., no playing footsie under the table, missy.) Your significant other will appreciate that you're spending your time focusing on wowing the parents instead of getting your flirt on (and if not, that's a red flag you should definitely make note of).

### **Do ask them questions.**

We're not going to pull any punches here: Meeting her or his parents is the relationship version of a job interview with the executive board. You're probably going to field a ton of questions, so be prepared for that. And, just like a job interview, you should *also* have some questions of your own to toss into the mix. Ask about their work ("Mrs. Smith, I hear that you're a lawyer. What area of the law do you focus on?"), their early years ("Where did you grow up?"), and their interests ("Mr. Smith, *[insert name of boo here]* tells me you make a pretty mean lasagne. How did you learn to cook?"). Showing an interest will not only make for a better conversation, but you might also pick up on some things that you can use later down the road (like for holiday gift ideas!)

### **Don't forget to say thank you.**

End the meeting on great note by letting them know what a wonderful time you had and how much you appreciate them hosting you in their home/taking you out to dinner/spending some of their short visit with you. And if you *really* want to win points, a handwritten thank-you note will always seal the deal. Of course, if it was just a brief meeting, a note won't really apply, but you can always use that later on when they have you for a weekend in their vacation home or give you a thoughtful gift for your birthday.

The bottom line? There's a reason your BF or GF fell for you, and most of the time, the parents will see those great qualities in you too. Just take a deep breath, smile, and put your best foot forward. Good luck!

**Opinion LGBT rights: The Guardian**

**How dare you, Kevin Spacey? You've fuelled a vicious lie about gay men**



His statement reacting to the accusation of attempted child sexual assault is contemptible and will be used to justify oppression of the LGBTQ community

Owen Jones, *The Guardian* Mon 30 Oct 2017



Kevin Spacey ‘has injured a minority he has publicly refused to associate with until a few hours ago.’

How dare you, Kevin Spacey. One of the age-old tropes deployed against gay and bisexual men is that they pose a threat to children, that they are synonymous with paedophiles and pederasts. This vicious lie has long proved useful in justifying the systematic persecution of gay and bisexual men. And that is why Spacey’s statement is so utterly contemptible. He has been accused of attempted sexual assault against actor Anthony Rapp, who was a 14-year-old child at the time. The Oscar winner denied any recollection of the incident – and then chose to take the opportunity to come out.



Kevin Spacey apologises after being accused of sexual advance on 14-year-old actor

Coming out is a personal landmark for all gay men, a “before and after” watershed moment. It can involve profound stress because of fear of rejection but for most it is a liberation, the lifting of an exhausting weight. That so many now feel comfortable coming out is due to a protracted and painful struggle on the part of LGBTQ people, particularly in the era when being gay could make you liable for arrest and incarceration. I am not among those who believe those with public platforms have a special responsibility to come out, even if having well-respected figures in the public domain helps people who are struggling with who they are. It is a deeply personal moment, and only those who use their platforms to further the cause of homophobia (like secretly gay politicians who vote against LGBTQ rights) should be outed against their will.



But to use an allegation of attempted sexual assault against a child as an opportunity to come out? Again, how dare you, Kevin Spacey. When celebrities respond to scandals, they have a team of experienced PR representatives to help craft statements. And what do PR representatives try to do in these circumstances? They try to deflect attention by introducing a new story. In this case, it was their client coming out. Spacey has injured a minority he has publicly refused to associate with until a few hours ago.

Remember Section 28, introduced by Thatcher's government in 1988, barring the so-called promotion of homosexuality in schools? How its defenders justified the homophobic legislation on the grounds that gay men were deviants and perverts who threatened the nation's children?

It is a common theme. In the late 1970s, rightwing Californian Senator John Briggs launched an initiative called California Proposition 6, attempting to bar gays and lesbians from working in Californian schools. California, thankfully, voted the initiative down – but its defenders portrayed LGBTQ people as a menace to American children.

In Putin's Russia, the most prominent homophobic vigilante group has called itself Occupy Paedophilia. Portraying themselves as champions of the rights of children, they target gay people for assault and humiliation. Some Russian laws treat "paedophile" and "gay" as though they are synonymous. In Ukraine, the anti-gay vigilante group White Lions similarly justifies attacking gay people on the grounds they are paedophiles. Gay rights' demonstrations in Poland have, in the past, been met with cries of "Ban paedophiles", while leading members of the ruling Law and Justice Party have lumped homosexuality in with "paedophilia, necrophilia and zoophilia."

In the coming days, weeks and months, I bet you that homophobic bigots will use Spacey's case to press the case that LGBTQ people threaten children. It will be used to justify oppression and mental and physical abuse. There will be those who have yet to come out who will be deterred from doing so. And all because of Spacey's statement.

The spotlight is now on powerful men who use their position to harass and assault. Survivors and victims desperately need support. There is no excuse – none – for the behaviour of these men.

