

## Chapter 4 Families and households

### Topic 6 Family diversity

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#### Activity: Discussion

#### Is the nuclear family best?

#### Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify key features of modernist and postmodernist perspectives on families and social policy.
- Evaluate these perspectives, highlighting strengths and limitations of each one.

- A. Divide into groups of four. Half of the groups will adopt a modernist perspective and the other half will adopt a postmodernist perspective on family diversity.
- B. Prepare and give a 15-minute presentation on how your perspective explains family diversity. The first presentation should be from a modernist perspective, the second from a postmodernist perspective and so on.

Here are some points to help you get started. Add as many as you can:

1. Read the sections relating to your perspective **and** the other perspective in this topic and also in Topic 3.
  2. Does your perspective support the statement?
  3. What evidence do the studies give to support their argument?
  4. What are the key concepts used by your perspective?
  5. Is your view of family diversity positive or negative?
  6. Use examples from your knowledge and experience of your own or other people's families/households to illustrate your points.
- C. Based on the presentations, conduct a class discussion on the question: 'Is the nuclear family best?'
  - D. Then vote on whether you agree with the statement. When making your choice, you must only consider the evidence presented during the discussion.
  - E. Write a summary of the different arguments for and against the view that the nuclear family is best. Which arguments do you find most convincing?