Questions for the first section of “Night to His Day” by Judith Lorber, pages 54 - 57

1. What do you think Lorber means that we “do” gender?

2. How do the individuals on the subway defy traditional gender norms? How do these “deliberate disruption[s]” help us recognize gender roles and expectations?

3. Where and how does “gender construction” start?

4. Explain how gender is a social institution.

5. Lorder claims that “Western society’s values legitimate gendering by claiming that it all comes from physiology – female and male procreative differences” – does she agree with that? Explain.

6. Provide examples (and terms) from the article of cultures who do not have only two genders.

7. Define transsexual. Explain how it is not the same as someone who embodies a third gender, like the examples above.

8. Differentiate transsexual from transvestite.

9. What is the thesis of this essay so far? Explain how you know this.