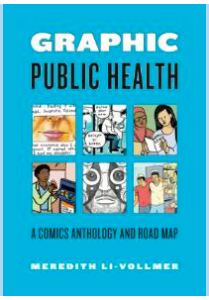
Discussion Guide



Graphic Public Health
Meredith Li-Vollmer

Penn State University Press
2022
192 pages
ISBN: 978-0271093253

Health Literacy

Summary
As we confront the challenges of emerging diseases, environmental health threats, and gaps in health equity, medical professionals need versatile communication tools that help people make informed decisions and engage them in constructive conversations about the health of their communities. This book illuminates the power of comics to meet that need. Each chapter focuses on the use of graphic public health in the context of four specific goals: health literacy, risk communication, health promotion, and advocacy. Li-Vollmer also includes guidance for practitioners getting started in creating comics for any form of public information, and especially for public health.

Questions

1. Did this book change your understanding of the practice of public health? Did you learn something new about what public health does?
2. What did you like most about the book? What did you like least?
3. Example comics are included throughout *Graphic Public Health*. Which one stood out most to you and why?
4. The subtitle, “A Comics Anthology and Road Map,” implies that this is a book aiming to get the reader somewhere. Where does the map laid out in this text lead and do you think it offers enough to help folks get to the next step?
5. In Chapter 1, *Comics for Health Literacy*, Li-Vollmer offers three comics on three very different topics. Which comic worked best as an educational tool? Was that comic also your favorite or did another one work better for you as a comic?
6. What is it about comics that make them an appealing medium and/or approach for communicating health information? Do you see any potential shortcomings for this medium? Did the author explore any of your concerns?
7. Are there topics or issues you wish the book had addressed but didn’t?
8. Have you read any other books, or comics, about health literacy or one of the public health concerns addressed by the example comics within? How did *Graphic Public Health* compare?

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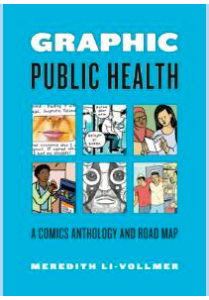

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9. Li-Vollmer makes clear throughout the book that climate change is something that public health must address. Have you considered the role of public health in climate change mitigation and resilience before? What other roles do you see for health professionals addressing a changing climate? Are there other systematic issues that healthcare professionals should be giving greater attention to?
10. Would you recommend *Graphic Public Health* to a friend? Why or why not?
11. What questions do you have after reading this book? How could you find answers?

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