Sex and Gender Characteristics Notes

The bulleted information is what you should write in your notes (pg. 19). You are welcome to paraphrase each bullet.

**Biological Sex**

* When a baby is born, the doctor says the baby is male or female. This is the baby’s *biological sex*.
* *Biological sex* is based on chromosomes, either XX (female) or XY (male).
* *Biological sex* is based on genitals, such as whether someone has a vulva and clitoris or a penis and scrotum.

**Gender Identity**

* *Gender identity* is a deep feeling people have about whether they are a guy, a girl, both or neither.
* People usually know their *gender identity* when they are very little, before they start kindergarten.
* People’s *gender identity* is sometimes the same as their biological sex, and sometimes different.
* A person’s *gender identity* is cisgender if it matches the person’s biological sex.
* A person’s *gender identity* is transgender if it does not match the person’s biological sex.

**Sexual Orientation**

* *Sexual orientation* is determined by whether a person is attracted to the same gender, another gender, or all genders.
* Some examples of *sexual orientation* are gay, lesbian, bisexual, straight, queer, etc.
* *Sexual orientation* is based on whom people are romantically attracted to, not necessarily whom they have sex with or make out with.

**Sexual Behavior**

* *Sexual behavior* describes what someone does sexually—oral, anal or vaginal sex, making out, etc.
* Sometimes *sexual behavior* matches a person’s sexual orientation, and sometimes it does not. For example, a person who identifies as straight might have had sex or made out with someone of the same gender.