

Activity one

Poster Making

Materials

- poster board
- markers/paint/etc -
- music

Description

For this activity the group will be creating anti-homophobia posters to display publicly around the school. The facilitator should bring a series of slogans or quotes (some are listed below) and the creative materials. Students can work in groups or individually. Some possible slogans are:

Celebrate Sexual Diversity

Bent but not Broken. Straight but not Narrow.

1 in 10 people are gay or lesbian. How many friends do you have?

Just because something is common doesn't mean it's normal.

(the words FAG, DYKE, QUEER, etc are like graffiti on the poster and then underneath it says: sticks and stones can break my bones but words can break my heart)

(list the names of numerous gay/lesbian famous people and put our slogan on the bottom)

"Why is it that, as a culture, we are more comfortable seeing two men holding guns than holding hands?" Ernest Gaines

Other tips:

- ✦ make sure there is music!!!! It makes the activity more fun and breaks the ice. Why not try to bring in music from TBLG musicians?
- ✦ Think of a central slogan to tie in all the posters. Examples would be: Hate is not a school value; Celebrate Sexual Diversity; Everyone has the right to be themselves.
- ✦ Get students to research the week before poster making to look for slogans from the gay and lesbian rights movement or positive quotes relating to diverse sexual identity.

Activity Two

Film Reviews

Materials

None (unless you do the extended activity)

Description

The facilitator will provide student with a list of films (see appendix). Students will watch films in their own time or the facilitator can show one of the films during the group meeting. Films that are recommended for showing students are:

- **All Over Me** (lesbian content, youth are main characters)
- **When Night is Falling** (lesbian content, adults are main characters. Rated R)
- **Edge of Seventeen** (gay male content mostly, youth are main characters, available at 7-24 video on Church St.)
- **Get Real** (gay male content, youth are main characters)
- **Paris is Burning** (documentary of the "Ball" scene in New York city in the late 1980s, mostly African-American poor youth. gay male and trans content. preview before you show it)
- **Priscilla Queen of the Desert** (gay male and trans content, adults are main characters)
- **Ma Vie En Rose** (French film focusing on (trans)gender identity of a young 'boy')
- **The Celluloid Closet** (a documentary exploring the history of the images of gay and lesbian people in film)

Extended activities

- ✎ Students review the films they watched and create a 'zine that can be published and distributed to other students. A template for the review might look like:

a rating 0-5 Qs

Q Rating	Description
0	this is painful. and not in an 'alternative-sexuality' kind of way.
Q	save your time and money
QQ	only someone desperate for a film with 'queer' content would bother watching this
QQQ	decent stuff. worth 3 bucks. entertaining or interesting or enlightening.
QQQQ	highly recommended! a great film, well made with meaningful and/or fabulous content.
QQQQQ	what? are you still reading this? get out there and rent this now! it will change your life! this is amazing & incredible!!!!

a description

- 1-2 sentences of brief plot (NO giveaways!!!)
- 1-3 sentences on your own take on the movie
- 1-20 sentence on whatever else you want to say.

content rating

PG/AA/R

availability

which video stores have this? in theaters? on tv? etc

Other tips:

- ✎ Before watching a film as a group, ask 2-3 students to take responsibility for making up discussion questions based on the film; this promotes a student-centred GSA.
- ✎ Not enough time to show a whole movie? You can show the first film from **Boys Life 2** (gay male content, youth oriented).

Activity three

Stonewall

Materials

- copies of the article on Stonewall in The Advocate from 1987. The article is available at: <http://www.grd.org/grd/misc/text/stonewall.history-ADVOCATE>

Description

The group either reads the article for 'homework' or it is read out loud. Following the reading, ask a student to act as discussion moderator. Some possible discussion questions would be:

?Why is it that this is the first time you have heard about this? Why might this not be taught in high school history classes?

?How is the gay and lesbian community different now then it was? Are these differences negative or positive?

?What role did the death of Judy Garland play in the Stonewall riots?

?What other riots do we know of in the past 30 years? What do they have in common with the Stonewall riots?

?It was 3 drag queens and a lesbian who seem to have been the catalyst to the Stonewall riots. The Stonewall riots are often considered to be an incredible symbol of gay liberation, but there is usually no mention of the role of transsexual or transgender people in the riots. Why might this be?

?How can we encourage teachers to incorporate more gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans history in their courses?

Extended Activities

- ✎ Get a student or two to do a story on Stonewall for the school newspaper.

Activity four

Discussion: Connecting the Oppressions

Materials

- Copies of the Black Panther's speech on Homosexual Oppression (see appendix)

Description

The purpose of this activity is to get students to think about how different identity-based oppressions are connected. Follow the steps below:

1. Students brainstorm the various answers to the question: What are the causes and effects of racism?
2. Students brainstorm the various answers to the question: What are the causes and effects of homophobia?
3. Students read the article by the Black Panthers connecting the Black Panther Movement with the Gay Liberation Movement.
4. Debrief and discuss.

Activity five

Queer Poetry

Materials

- Copies of poems from various gay, lesbian, bi and trans writers (see appendix)

Description

The various poems are read silently or out loud. After each poem, the group discusses the significance of the piece. Some questions for analysis might include:

?What might the poem be about?

?What does this poem have to do with the author's sexuality?

?What do you think about the poem?

?Do we notice any similarities between the various poems with queer content?

Extended Activities

- ✎ Students are responsible for finding one poem by a gay, lesbian, bi or trans writer. These can be compiled into a queer poetry anthology which can be photocopied for all members of the GSA and the school library.
- ✎ Students can write their own poems silently after the discussion and those who feel like it can share what they wrote with the others.

Activity Six

Deconstructing Will & Grace

Materials

- An episode of Will & Grace
- A copy of the discussion questions

Description

Students are given a copy of the discussion questions so they can be thinking about them as they are watching the episode. The group watches the episode. Ask a student to facilitate the discussion and go through each of the questions.

- When there is laughter in the show, are we supposed to be laughing at or with the show? Is it possible that both a gay man and a homophobic man could be laughing at the same joke, but for different reasons?
- It has been said that the media (and maybe some gay right advocates) has tried to separate all gay men into either the Good Gay or Bad Gay category. Do Jack and Will fall into the Good Gay/Bad Gay categories

The Good Gay is:

- ✓ Non-sexual or asexual
- ✓ Non-threatening
- ✓ Professional
- ✓ Healthy
- ✓ Clean
- ✓ Mentally Stable
- ✓ Middle or Upper Class
- ✓ Not too effeminate

The Bad Gay is:

- ✓ Sexual
- ✓ Unprofessional
- ✓ Dirty
- ✓ Middle or Lower Class
- ✓ Mentally Unstable
- ✓ Effeminate
- ✓ Sick

- If Will or Jack were taken out of the show, would it still be funny? Would it be more offensive?
- What kind of stereotypes does the show support? Which stereotypes does it challenge?
- Why do you think this show has one of the highest ratings of all shows on tv?

Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, Intersex or at least a little bit Queer Musicians

Canadian

Rufus Wainwright
The Skinjobs
Tegan and Sarah
Nance
Ember Swift
K.D. Lang
Faith Nolan
Tanita Tikaram
Dana Baitz
Sook-Vin Lee
Propagandi (one member is gay)
The Hidden Cameras
Rough Trade (Carole Pope)
Parachute Club

Pop

Elton John
Madonna
Pet Shop Boys
Bronski Beat
Melissa Etheridge RuPaul
Culture Club/ Boy George
George Michael
Sonia
John Boswell
Queen (Freddie Mercury)
Boyzone (Stephen Gately)
Soft Cell

Rock & Punk

Judas Priest (lead singer Rob Halford)
Jayne County (& the Electric Chairs)
Nick Name
Pansy Division
R.E.M. (Michael Stipe)
Bob Mould
All the Pretty Horses
The Smiths (Morrisey)
The Velvet Underground (Lou Reed)
Patti Smith
Iggy Pop
New York Dolls

Folk & Country & people with acoustic guitars

Indigo Girls
Ani DiFranco
V'All
Mark Islam
Cayley Monte

Tom Robinson God is Gay
Mark & Dean Madeline Davis Joan
Armatrading The Murmurs Lou
Harrison Garrin Benfield Namoli
Brennet Tracey Chapman Dusty
Springfield Jae Cie
Uni
Disappear Fear

R&B & Hip Hop & Dance

Me'shell Ndege'ocello
Psyche
Rainbow Flava
Communards
Ma Rainey
Erasure
Luscious Jackson Aaron-Carl
Little Richard

Classical and Jazz

Fred Hersch (Oazz)
Lowell Lieberman
Paula Kimper Franz
Schubert Fredric
Chopin
Tchaikovsky

'other'

Magnetic Fields/ Future Bible Heroes
Stephin Merritt
Paraeric
Sinead O'Connor
Eva Dahlgren
Dora Roberts
Phranc
Rogue Amazon
Team Dresch
Zrazy
Ferron
Peaches
Laura Love
Sandra Bernhard
Tracy and the Plastics
Cole Porter

Films with Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Trans content

Please note: some films are rated for an adult audience and may not be suitable for younger viewers. Films in bold are more highly recommended, but tastes will vary.

'Lesbian' content

When Night is Falling

Better than Chocolate

The Incredible Adventures of 2 Girls in Love

High Art

All Over Me

Desert Hearts

But I'm A Cheerleader!

Bound

Antonia's Line

Boys on the Side

Fire

I've Heard the Mermaids Singing

Kissing Jessica Stein

'Gay' content

Edge of Seventeen

Lilies

Get Real

Beautiful Thing

Boys Life 1

Before Night Falls

Hanging Garden

Cabaret

The Living End

My Beautiful Laundrette

My Own Private Idaho

Philadelphia

Six Degrees of Separation

Torch Song Trilogy

'trans' content (lots of the other films on this list have trans content)

Boys Don't Cry

The Crying Game

Ma Vie En Rose

'not straight and all over the place' content

Priscilla Queen of the Desert

Y Tu Mama Tambien

Paris is Burning (documentary) Cecil

B. Demented

Nowhere

I Shot Andy Warhol

Rocky Horror Picture Show

I'm The One that I Want! (stand-up comedy)

The Opposite of Sex

Splendor

Frida

Rocky Horror Picture Show

All About My Mother

and some not-straight directors

John Waters Gus Van

Sant Bruce LaBruce

Cheryl Dunye Pedro

Almodovar Deepa Mehta

Gregg Araki John

Greyson Todd. Haynes

Derek Jarman Patricia

Rozema