



THIS ACTIVITY WAS CREATED FOR SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

It is intended to be a starting point to open discussions about sexual and gender diversity. Customize it or use it as is!

Foreword

Introducing May 17

May 17 is the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. May 17 is a symbolic date for people in the LGBTQ+ community, as homosexuality was removed from the World Health Organization (WHO) list of mental illnesses on May 17, 1990.

Purpose of the activity

Everyone at school needs to feel safe, included, and in their place in order to learn. During today's activity, we will ask ourselves questions to see where we are in our knowledge of sexual and gender diversity and we will try to find solutions to make our world more inclusive.

Important to Mention

During this activity, let's keep in mind that there are probably people in this room who are LGBTQ+ or who have LGBTQ+ relatives. So as I always will ask that we do our best to be respectful and caring in our discussions.

Instructions

1. Distribute the questionnaire
2. Explain the purpose of the activity
3. Complete the questionnaire
4. Provide answers and feedback
5. Open the discussion with the ideas for reflection
6. Close the activity



Questions

1. What does the word LGBTQphobia mean?

- a. The phobia of blank pages
- b. The phobia of sexual and gender diversity
- c. The phobia of letters
- d. The phobia of shoes

Comment: the term LGBTQphobia designates the phobia and other forms of rejection of LGBTQ+ people. This corresponds to all of the negative attitudes, actions and words aimed at gender and sexual diversity. When someone's afraid, they tend to adopt a defensive or aggressive attitude. In the case of LGBTQphobia, this attitude harms LGBTQ+ people and can result in serious consequences for their physical and psychological health.

2. What proportion of people think that being LGBTQ+ should be illegal?

- a. 5%
- b. 15%
- c. 25%
- d. 45%

Comment: even though LGBTQ+ people have always existed because they're a part of nature, they pose no danger and being LGBTQ+ is neither an illness nor a choice, 1 in 4 people in the world continue to consider that their identities are crimes. There are still 69 countries in the world that criminalize homosexuality!

3. Does LGBTQphobia still exist in Canada?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Comment: whether it's in the form of remarks, jokes, discrimination or acts of physical violence, LGBTQphobia is still found in Canada today. In 2021, 425 hate crimes targeting someone's sexual orientation were reported to the police in Canada.

4. How many LGBTQ+ people in Canada have said they've been the victim of LGBTQphobia?

- a. 20%
- b. 13%
- c. 39%
- d. 45%



5. What does the word “aromantic” mean?

- a. Someone who doesn't have any emotions
- b. Someone who feels little or no romantic attraction**
- c. Someone who is antisocial
- d. Someone who loves aromatic herbs

Comment: an aromantic person feels little or no romantic attraction, meaning that they don't fall in love like the rest of the population. Aromanticism is a spectrum that includes many variations. For example, some people very rarely feel romantic attraction or only feel romantic attraction under certain conditions (this is called being “grey-romantic”). Others need to have a very strong connection with the person before they develop feelings of romantic attraction (they don't have “crushes”). Even if the majority of aromantic people are not interested in being in a relationship, it does not mean that they stay alone or that they have don't feel love : they can live surrounded by the love of their family and their friends.

6. What percentage of the Canadian population is LGBTQ+?

- a. 0.2%
- b. 1.5%
- c. 12.5%**
- d. 57%

Comment: according to an average of surveys carried out by Léger Marketing for Fondation Émergence, it seems that LGBTQ+ people make up 12.5% of the population. That's about 1 in 8 people. What's more, if we add all the people who love an LGBTQ+ person (their family, friends and partners), we find that quite a large proportion of the population would benefit from a world free of LGBTQphobia !

7. In what year was homosexuality decriminalized in Canada?

- a. 1821
- b. 1942
- c. 1969**
- d. 1991

Comment : From the earliest days of colonization until 1969, people who had sex with people of the same sex could be sentenced to between 5 and 14 years in prison. In addition, a law enacted in 1892 made "gross indecency" between men illegal, which included any gesture indicating same-sex attraction, including simple touching, dancing and kissing. In 1953, these laws were extended to women. In 1969, however, these laws were amended, making such behaviour legal but only under certain circumstances: in particular, the parties involved had to be 21 years of age or older.



8. Patricia refuses to use the pronoun “they” when speaking about Sam because “she can see Sam’s a girl.” She justifies this by saying that if Sam didn’t want to be called “she,” then they shouldn’t wear makeup. Can this behaviour be considered as belonging to LGBTQphobia?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Comment: Patricia's behaviour can be characterized as a rejection of gender diversity. "They" is a pronoun used by some non-binary people. Non-binary people do not identify as 100% boy or 100% girl (e.g., somewhere in the middle, neither boy nor girl, or both). The best person to know Sam's gender identity is Sam! Our gender identity (girl, boy or non-binary) is not always reflected in the makeup and clothes we wear. Respecting someone's identity costs nothing and can make all the difference for them. Of course it can happen to use the wrong pronoun by accident, just like it can happen to use the wrong name when we talk about someone. In both cases the best is to apologize, use the right name or pronoun and do better the next time.

Points to Think About

- a. Gender stereotypes are beliefs that men should have certain characteristics or behaviours that distinguish them from women and vice versa. Can you give me examples of gender stereotypes that exist in society? What are the consequences of gender stereotypes?
- b. What stereotypes and biases do we frequently hear in society in relation to LGBTQ+ people?
- c. A social norm is how society expects a person to behave, in short it is what is seen as "normal" and "default." Do you think society influences norms in dating?
- d. Where do you think LGBTQphobias come from?
- e. Have you ever witnessed discrimination, jokes, or mean remarks towards LGBTQ+ people? How did you react? Why did you react the way you did?
- f. Do you believe that Quebec and Canada are safe and inclusive places for people from the LGBTQ+ communities?
- g. What do you think it is like to be an LGBTQ+ person in a country where it is illegal?
- h. How do you think we could make the world more inclusive for LGBTQ+ people?"



International Day Against
Homophobia and **Transphobia**

Closing the activity

Need to talk about it?

Remind students of resources available to discuss LGBTQ+ issues and realities.

[Fondation Émergence](#) - Several programs and information, including an LGBTQ+ [lexicon](#)

[Interligne](#) - 24-hour listening service - text toll-free to 1 888 505-1010, or go to their website [to chat](#).

[Alterhéros](#) - Help and listening service for youth aged 14 to 30.

Additional resources

Download our [May 17 Activity Guide](#). There are many activities for all ages.

Une initiative de