



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



Quiz

Hand out the quiz to the students (or launch it on Kahoot). You can have students answer the questions on their own or in small groups. For each question, read the feedback that explains the answer, you can also start a small discussion by reading the question in the "What do you think?" box.

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 (that's a fear) and other forms of rejection of LGBTQ+ people. This can mean all kinds of 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.

2. What proportion of people in the world thinks that being LGBTQ+ should be illegal?

- a. 1 out of 100
- b. 1 out of 10
- c. 1 out of 4
- d. 1 out of 2

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 where gay people can go to prison if they are caught!

3. Does LGBTQphobia still exist in Canada?

- a. Yes
- b. No

Comment: Unfortunately, whether it's in the form of remarks, jokes, discrimination or acts of physical violence, LGBTQphobia is still found in Canada today.



4. How many people are LGBTQ+?

- a. 1 out of 100
- b. 1 out of 50
- c. 1 out of 10
- d. 1 out of 3

Comment: LGBTQ+ are a significant part of our society. 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 !

5. Olivia was born in a boy's body but she knows she is a girl and lives her life as a girl. Patricia continues to refer to Sam as a man because according to Patricia, Olivia "is not a real girl." 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. Sometimes girls are born in boys' body, and boys are born in girls body. We must trust that they know who they are and always do our best to be kind. The best person to know Olivia's gender identity is Olivia! Our gender identity (girl, boy) is not always reflected in the way we look. 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

Here are some examples of questions you can address with your group (you can choose your favourites or see with the group which ones they are interested in

1. Have you ever heard jokes, or mean remarks towards LGBTQ+ people? How did you react? Why did you react the way you did?
2. How do you think we could make the world more inclusive for LGBTQ+ people?

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.