

Erin Webb

Introduction to LGBTQ Education

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Unit Topic: LGBTQ Rights in Education

Lesson: A Brief Introduction to Gender and Sexuality

Rationale for the Lesson/Objectives:

- Students will gain a better understanding of what gender and sexuality are, how they work, the various dynamics of gender and sexuality and why it's important to learn about them. Students will be given a solid foundation that will help them absorb following lesson plans as well as give them answers to any questions they may be having about their own gender and sexuality. They will also learn the importance of pronoun usage as they apply to themselves and others.

Standards: *6-8th grade History/Social Studies*

- RH. 6-8.2
 - “Determine the central ideas or information of a primary or secondary source; provide an accurate summary of the source distinct from prior knowledge or opinions”.
- RH. 5-8.4
 - “Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including vocabulary specific to domains related to history/social studies”.

Essential Question/Guiding Questions:

- Why do you think LGBTQ Rights education is important to young students and what are some steps both students and teachers could take to help integrate this type of information into their curriculum?

Lesson Opener: (Approx 7 Min.)

- Hand out pronoun pins/stickers for the students to customize in whatever way suits them. Students may continue to work on their pins as the lesson progresses.
- While the students are customizing their pins, discuss pronoun usage and ask about students' prior knowledge and/or formal education of the LGBTQ community.
- If no formal education has been given, ask why the students think it has not been included in their curriculum.

Step-By-Step Procedures: *Lesson is primarily discussion based and may run to 46/47 minutes depending on how well the students digest the information.*

- After opening activity is complete, read and discuss Peter DeWitt's article, "3 Reasons Why Many Schools Won't Offer LGBT Curriculum". Why is it important to include this kind of education? (**Approx. 10 Min.**)
- Discuss the following questions to determine how far along students are in their LGBTQ education. (**Approx. 15 Min---5 Minutes per question**)
 - What is Sex/Gender/Identity/Expression? How do they differ from one another?
 - What is Sexuality?
 - What are the different parts of the LGBTQ Community? (What does the acronym stand for and what are the other sections that are not included?)
- Discuss *Rolling Stone's* article "4 LGBT Issues to Focus on Now That We Have Marriage Equality". (This will allow students to see that there are more issues surrounding the community than just marriage. Focus mainly on the point about violence as that is what pertains mostly to children of this age group) (**Approx. 7 Min.**)

- Discuss New Jersey's Anti-Bullying (HIB) Legislation---How does it work? Who does it protect? **Approx. 3-5 Min.)**
- GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network)/Day of Silence/other LGBTQ organizations, what can they do for you and how can you reach out to them? How else can you become educated about LGBTQ Rights if your school does not allow it in the curriculum. *Discuss Safe Space Kit. Approx. 3-5 Min).*

Closing Activity:

- Ask students how they could make their school more inclusive to those in the LGBTQ Community, especially those that are underrepresented by social means.

Materials and Equipment needed:

- Peter DeWitt's article "3 Reasons Why Many Schools Won't Offer LGBT Curriculum".
- *Rolling Stone's* article "4 LGBT Issues to Focus on Now That We Have Marriage Equality"
- GLSEN Safe Space Kit
- LGBTQ Inclusive Curriculum guide
- Pronoun pins/stickers/name tags

Accommodations/Lesson Modifications:

- To support students with Dyslexia or ADHD, the teacher/professor may find it useful to separate paragraphs or increase line spacing in the reading. Likewise, for Dyslexia, some have found it useful to change the color of the paper used for printed articles. One could also read the article aloud for students who have an easier time retaining information that is spoken to them rather than reading.

(Article/Guide Links)

Peter DeWitt's article:

http://blogs.edweek.org/edweek/finding_common_ground/2015/07/3_reasons_why_many_schools_wont_offer_LGBT_curriculum.html

Rolling Stone article:

<http://www.rollingstone.com/politics/news/4-lgbt-issues-to-focus-on-now-that-we-have-marriage-equality-20150629>

NJ Anti-Bullying Legislation:

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/genfo/faq/AntiBullyingQA.pdf>

GLSEN Safe Space Training Kit:

https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/GLSEN%20Safe%20Space%20Kit%202016_0.pdf

GLSEN Inclusive Curriculum Guide:

https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/LGBT%20inclus%20curriculum%202014_0.pdf

DeWitt, Peter. "3 Reasons Why Many Schools Won't Offer LGBT Curriculum." *Education Week*. Editorial Projects in Education, Inc., 13 July 2015. Web. 11 Oct. 2016.

This article is really great for the lesson plan because as the name suggests, it talks about why LGBT education is not included in most public school curriculums. It's really important for students to understand why they haven't learned about these things in school and why they absolutely must. If more people are aware of the reasons LGBT education is avoided, then it is more likely that we will be able to do something about it, and there will be more people behind it because they will see that it is not dangerous and it's nothing to be scared of. With the proper tools and dedicated educators, it can be a simple subject to teach, there is just a lot that needs to be incorporated.

Scaccia, Annamarya. "4 LGBT Issues to Focus on Now That We Have Marriage Equality." *Rolling Stone*. Jann Wenner, June-July 2015. Web. 11 Oct. 2016.

This is a great article because it touches on the fact that many unaware people think that now LGBTQ have access to marriage that all of their worries are over. It discusses violence, employment discrimination, poverty, and health care which are just a few of the many struggles that LGBTQ people face on a regular basis. This is also a really good article because it came from such a widely known magazine and because it is so popular the information probably reached a wider audience of people who may not know much about the problems still plaguing the community. This is a magazine that a lot of people can associate themselves with, it will help them grasp the material a lot better.

New Jersey Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act. P. L 2010. Chapter 122.

Some information about the Anti-bullying law is essential to the lessons because not a lot of people really know how it works or what it entails. So it would be beneficial to LGBTQ students and allies to know exactly how it applies to them. It is really important for LGBTQ people to feel safe and happy at school especially since we don't have a choice in whether or not we attend school---until we reach high school when we are legally allowed to drop out. So even though high school kind of sucks in general it's good to know that they will be safe from bullying while they're there.