



## 3.1 What is Allyship?

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**Suggested Grade Level:** 6-12

\*best implemented during Ally Week

**Time:** 40- 50 minutes ( time can depend on the size of the GSA)

**Subject Area:** Allyship

### Overview:

Allies can play an important part of the LGBTQ movement. When discussing movements in which individuals are putting their identity on the forefront it can quickly become tiring work. Allies can help lift that stress by being active supporters and a bridge between communities. At times it can be difficult to balance between being a helpful supporter or hijacking the movement, this lesson plan will tackle how to be an effective ally as well as related topics.

### Goals:

- Equips participants with the knowledge of being good allies to the LGBTQ community.
- Allow for LGBTQ participants to hold their allies accountable through the setting of values.
- Creates a clear message on what allyship is and what it looks like in the context of GSA.

### Materials:

- One-Pager created for allies.
- White Board/ Wall
- Paper and Tape
- Poster Paper/ Poster Board

### Procedure:

#### Step One:

All people who wish to participate will make post-it notes or tape slips of paper\* that describe what it means to be an Ally. Allyship lessons can be learned by looking at allies for the Black Lives Matter Movements and Immigrant Rights movements.

#### Starter examples include:

- Attend protests for the LGBTQ
- Demands for space in environment that is made for/by LGBTQ community

- Leads and takes the highest leadership roles in the LGBTQ groups/organizations
- They safely intervene when they see someone being bullied or harassed.
- Attend GSA meetings

*\*create more slips as needed, the leadership should create these starter slips or post-its before hand ( they can include both things are that problematic and progressive that allies do )*

### **Step Two:**

Create two sections on the board/or poster and label them what allies should do/should avoid doing. Then take the strips of paper and tape the phases to what side they should be on. This part of the lesson can create lots of discussion, make sure the discussion is proactive.

### **Step Three:**

Looking at the board, as group decide why certain things are on one side opposed to others. This would be a good time handout the “Being an Ally” one pager that is attached to the end of this lesson. The main goal of this activity is for the GSA members to gain a consensus on what an ally is and what they should do.

### **Step Four:**

After discussion about allyship, the GSA members can create a value poster for their allies. This will allow the allies and members of the LGBTQ community in the GSA to hold eachother accountable and will set guidelines for the group as well. This Values posters of how to be an Ally can be handed out as a flyer around the school if they so choose.

If students still have more questions more questions about being an ally, look at the resources on the one pager below. Also looking at the allies of other marginalized groups can be helpful as well.

# Being an Ally

It's important for the LGBTQ community to have effective and knowledgeable allies. Here are some reminders for individuals to be aware of when being an ally for the LGBTQ communities.

1. Realize the conversation is not about you. Use your role less as the speaker but more as the microphone. As an ally it's important not to take over the conversation but help the LGBTQ community with the conversation.
2. Ally ship is a verb. It

takes more than being aware of the struggles of LGBTQ to support them. This means taking an active role whether that is protesting, voting, or advocating for issues that affect that the LGBTQ communities.

3. Use your privilege. This can be using your voice to advocate for the LGBTQ in spaces that are unwelcoming.
4. Listen to understand not to respond. Being an ally does not mean having the ready response for everything. It means taking the time to listen and understand individuals when they are sharing parts of their lives



with you.

5. Understand that the LGBTQ community is not a monolith. One experience does not define all experiences. Individuals carry multiple identities, it is important to recognize all of them.
6. Ask questions when you have them but also realize that it is important to self educate. It cannot be the job of the LGBTQ community to constantly keep allies informed.

As mentioned in the last tip, it's important to remember that the LGBTQ community is not responsible educating allies. Below are helpful sites and resources that can help you become a better ally:

<http://www.wearefamilycharleston.org/lgbt-a-z-glossary/>

Raising Ryland

<http://transwhat.org/confused/>

[www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org)

[www.athleteally.org](http://www.athleteally.org)

*This document was compiled from research by*

<http://www.complex.com/life/2016/06/being-a-straight-ally>

<http://fusion.kinja.com/dear-white-friends-heres-how-to-support-blm-without-ma-1793860573>