



4.6 Asian and Queer

Suggested Grade Level: 6-12

Time: 40 minutes -- this can span into two- three meetings

**This project would be good in May which is Asian American Heritage Month*

Subject Area: Race - Asian Americans

Overview:

One of the main struggles of Asian face is representation. Not only is there a lack of representation of Asian in Western media when there is the characters are either white washed or offensive stereotypes. It is even more difficult to find LGBTQ Asian representation in all aspects of life from media to politics. Accurate representation and role models of LGBTQ Asian Americans are difficult to find due to the restrictions placed by white supremacy, they do exist and they do matter. This activity will highlight not only Asian LGBTQ trailblazers but will also help students understand the importance of accurate representations through using art as an outlet.

Goals:

- GSA members to have a better understanding of the intersectionality of being Asian and LGBTQ
- GSA members learn more about Asian LGBTQ role models
- Allows participants transform their research to artwork

Materials:

- Construction Paper
- Crayons
- Paint
- Books
- Scissors
- Glue
- Computers - students can conduct research

Procedure:

List of People

Tita Aida is a social activist from California. She is an advocate for HIV/AIDS awareness, particularly among Asian American communities, and for transgender folks. She is from the Philippines.

Lt. Dan Choi is Korean- American infantry soldier for the United States Army. He played a vital role in repealing “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”.

Evan Low is a Chinese- American who is currently serving the California’s State Assembly. He was formerly the mayor of Campbell, California.

Cecilia Chung is a civil rights leader and activist. Cecilia identifies as a trans woman. She serves on the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

Ifti Nasim is a gay Pakistani poet. His best known publication was a book of poetry entitled *Narman*.

Kiyoshi Kuromina was a Japanese American author and civil rights activist. He was born in a Japanese American internment camp. He served as an openly gay delegate to the Black Panther convention.

Prince Manvendra Singh Gohil is an Indian Prince. He is the first openly gay prince in the world. He runs a charity, The Lakshya Trust, which works with the LGBT community.

Kim Coco Iwamoto served two terms with the Hawaii Board of Education. Iwamoto was elected in 2006, making her at that time the highest ranking openly transgender elected official in the United States and the first openly transgender official to win statewide office.

Jared Eng is a Chinese - American who created the popular celebrity news site, JustJared.

Margaret Cho is a Korean- American comedian/ actress who is openly bisexual. She co-starred in the Lifetime comedy- drama *Drop Dead Diva*.

Sunil Babu Pant is a Nepalese activist and former politician. He was the first openly gay national-level legislator in Asia.

Helen Zia is a Chinese-American journalist and activist for Asian American and LGBTQ rights.

Sutan Amrull also known as Raja and Raja Gemini, is an American make-up artist and drag performer. He is best known for his work on the reality television show *America's Next Top Model* and *RuPaul’s Drag Race*.

Step One:

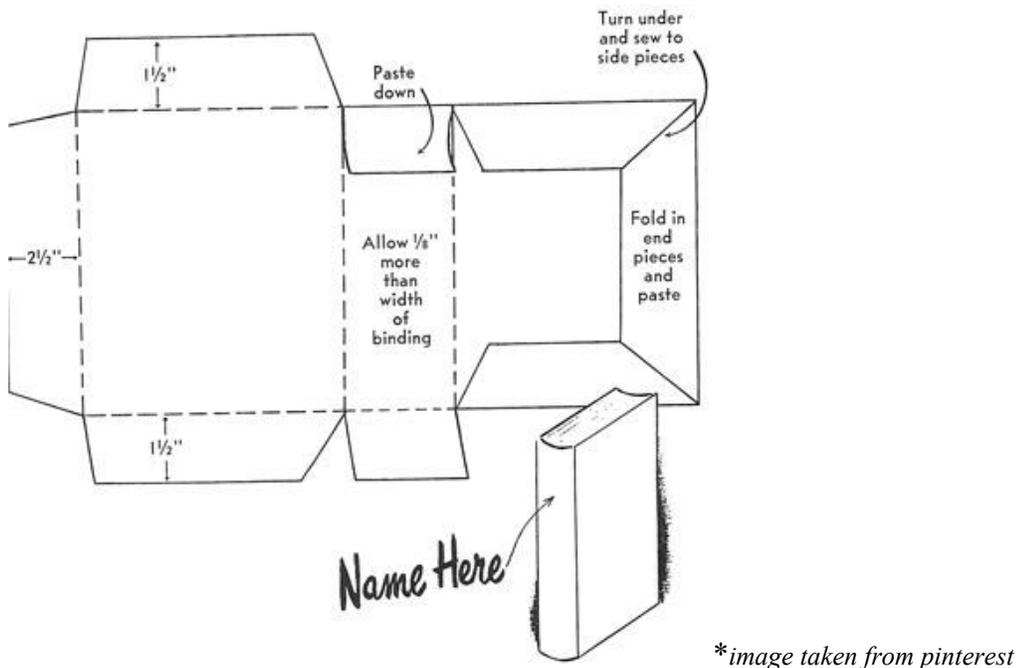
Participants should pick from one the individuals from the list to conduct research on, they can read the cards made below to learn a little bit about them . This research not only includes knowing who they are but also if accessible viewing their speeches or films or shows, reading their articles, and learning about their advocacy for LGBTQ. This research does not need to intensive but should be fun.

Step Two:

After doing some research on the person of their choice, the GSA members can create a marketing piece on that figure and their life. These pieces can include the following:

- Campaign Posters
- CD cover
- Book Cover
- Magazine Cover

These pieces can be anything the student wants to incorporate. If participants choose do the CD they can include song tracks on the back that give details about that person’s life. If they choose Campaign Poster that can create a campaign slogan. Also if they choose Book cover they can include a little synopsis on the back. Below is an example of how to make a book cover that can be incorporated to make a CD cover as well:



These pieces can be made from paper bags and construction paper

This activity will allow students to see LGBTQ Asians representation on their own homemade marketing and media pieces.

Step Three:

Participants can present their pieces to the GSA members in a showcase of their work.