



4.7 Gender Neutral Spanish Video

Suggested Grade Level: 9-12

Time: Will vary

Subject Area: Latinx experiences, race and LGBTQ

Overview:

Students will create videos speaking to each other in gender neutral spanish. Students should be involved in the writing, directing, acting, and editing the videos.

Goals: Through this activity, students will:

- Learn helpful bilingual skills in relation to latinx people
- Develop team-building and multimedia skills

Materials:

Classroom

Degendering Spanish Handout

Camera or other recording device

Props

Video editing software

Procedure:

Gender neutral spanish is a new phenomena among queer Latinx youth. Because there is a lack of visual examples for other students to use when learning gender neutral spanish, a GSA can make their own videos.

Step One:

Using the degendering spanish handout, have students write a dialogue using gender neutral spanish. The clips can be short, and should include examples of everyday conversation.

Sample Script

Person one: *¿Hola amigue, que pasa?*

Person two: *Nada mucho. Solo estoy trabajando en la tarea de matemáticas.*

Person one: *¡Que triste! Mis amigues lo terminaron. Nosotres queremos jugar futbol. ¿Tu quieres jugar con nosotres?*

Person one: *¡Sí, será una buena práctica!*

Step Two:

After scripts have been created, now comes the fun part! Set the scene, get props, and have students rehearse lines. Once everything is set in place, begin filming!

Step Three:

Once scenes have been filmed, editing can begin. This is a great opportunity for students who are either unable to be in the videos or don't want to be in the videos a chance to contribute to the project.

Finished videos can be shared to the whole GSA, to Out4Good, or to spanish classes if students wish.

Degendering Spanish

Spanish is one of the most commonly spoken languages in Minnesota after English. Spanish is also a language that is highly gendered and rooted in the gender binary of feminine or masculine. Recently in parts of Mexico and the U.S. with a large population of young queer Latinx, a way of speaking has developed that degenders pronouns and words.

Traditional Gendering of Spanish 101

Traditionally, pronouns within Spanish are gendered along the male/female binary, shown in the graph below:

Singular	Plural
Yo (I)	Nosotros (We)
Tú (you, informal)	Nosotras (We, all females)
Usted (You, formal)	Ustedes (you all, implied gender neutral)
Él (he)	Ellos (They, masc)
Ella (She)	Ellas (They, Fem)

Many words referring to people or professions are gendered as well. For example, amigo/amiga (friend), chico/chica (boy, girl), abogado/abogada (Lawyer), and doctor/doctora (doctor). This forces certain gender stereotypes and norms on that fall within the gender binary on Spanish speakers.

Gender Neutral Spanish and Pronouns

In as seen above, pronouns look very specific depending on the gender and amount of people present. Many young people in the Spanish speaking world have begun a movement to break the binary and inherent gendering of queer people.

Singular	Plural
Yo (I)	Nosotros (We, gender neutral)
Tú (you, informal)	Ustedes (You all, gender neutral)
Usted (You, formal)	
Elle (They, singular)	Elles (They, plural)

Many young Latinx have proposed and started using -e in place of the -a/-o that denotes gender. As an example; Instead of abogado/abogada, a gender neutral spelling would be abogade.

Sometimes just adding the -e suffix requires an alternate spelling of the word to preserve the pronunciation. A good example of this is chico/chica. If the -o/-a was simply just replaced with -e, the pronunciation of the c would become soft, almost like an s sound. Therefore, the correct spelling would be chique. Similarly, amigo/amiga would not be spelled amige, but it would be spelled amigue.

Gender neutral Spanish as a system is in its infancy, and is continually being shaped by the many Latinx youth across the world. It is encouraged to do more research into the topic!