



## 6.4 Queer Fashion Show

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**Suggested Grade Level:** 9-12

**Time:** 2-3 Months of Planning (Must rent out space months in advance)

**Subject Area:** Queer Creativity, Theater and Fundraising

### Overview:

In this activity students will create their own runway looks and produce a runway show to raise both visibility and funds for the GSA. The show will include a competitive aspect in the end where the top 4 looks will have to “LipSync for their life.” The audience will vote on the ultimate winner based on their lipsync performance. Everyone will be invited back to the stage where the Judges will bestow individualize awards. (e.g. “The Most Creative”, “Arty Chic” and “Romantic Royalty”)

### Goals:

- Allows the growth students intrapersonal skills through leadership and networking development
- Allows students to build relationship and communication channels with various departments and administrators within the school
- Allows students an outlet for self expression and creativity
- Creates communal cohesion among GSA members.

### Materials:

*\*Depends on the scale of the production and the GSA’s capacity.*

- A Runway
  - A Theater Stage in an Auditorium
  - A DIY stage created by the GSA
  - A Red Carpet in a Gym (Optional)
    - Can use long red banner paper
- Runway Costumes
  - The Students participating in the Show will ultimately be responsible for their outfits.
    - Local Thrift shops are great place to find outfits
- Make-up Crew
  - A Make-Up Kit (Wide Range of Skin tones)
  - Makeup Remover
  - Person(s) who know how to do make-up.
- Hair Crew

- A Flat Iron
- A Hair Dryer
- Hair Curler
- Heat Protectant
- Hair Accessories (bobby pins, hair ties, hair clips)
- Hairspray
- Glitter/Dye
  - Potentially, not necessary.
- Lights/Theater Tech Crew
  - Partner with a theater person knowledgeable in lights.
  - For those, going without a theater stage
    - A couple of lamps with different color light bulbs
- Audio Tech Crew
  - For those with a stage, a person knowledge in sound production
  - For those going without a stage or auditorium
    - A large set of speakers with an Aux cord
  - Microphone and Speakers

### **Procedure:**

There are two main ways of having a GSA Fashion Show Night, one is just for the GSA students that will have little to no advertising using a makeshift stage or red carpet. The other would be a Runway Extravaganza Night in which the goal would be to both to recruit members, and generate funds for your GSA similar to a school theater production.

For example, throwing a “Runway Extravaganza” event could be apart of a recruitment device where everyone is invited to come watch and there’s lots of food. Whereas, a GSA fashion show would be fun but only for GSA members.

### **Step One:**

Schedule a meeting with administration in advance, so they will know about the event and also to secure your space.

Keep in mind that if you plan on using the school’s auditorium or gym that this meeting with administration should be scheduled at time when there still is a enough time for you to finalize event items (e.g. making the posters) so when the meeting occurs all the pieces are organized. The advisor can be the one to schedule the meeting and may even be the one attending it.

### **Step Two:**

Secure a location for the Fashion show to be presented. See if your school will allow for students to use the Performing Arts Center or Auditorium if you want to put on a show to raise money. In case of spaces being taken always have a back up or push the date further back.

### **Step Three:**

Push the Event! The GSA can in addition to posters and banners. Handout little square versions to personally invite people and table at Breakfast/Lunch. When tabling be sure to have a signup sheet with the Fashion categories for your show to get performers as well as prizes (e.g. candy). Decorate your table so people will notice it!

Even a rainbow tablecloth or bright wallpaper taped over the table can have this effect.

### **Step Four:**

Dedicate a minimum of 2 GSA days before the Event to plan out the roles in the show.

Whose:

- The MC or Announcer
- First Act to Last Act (Your Line up)
- Hair Crew
- Makeup Crew
  - Sound Team (Picking the Music and Each Performer's Song will be sent to them. On the day make sure the Mic is good.)
- Lights Team (If you are not in the Auditorium of your school, you will come to bring colorful light bulbs and at least 4 lamps to light up the runway or “Red Carpet” in the Gym. As well as 1 bright white one to illuminate the Model’s Face. Additionally you can also have one of the light crew hold flash lights and move them around to create “Spotlights” when MC announces top 3 performers. Caution for those with epilepsy.)
- Stage Manager (Organizes all the acts together backstage. Tells them when to go and in what order. Makes adjustments to line up if people get sick or are absent and informs the MC and Sound Team. Encourages the performers.)
- Ushers (Wear all the same color and will be taking tickets and cash at the door. As well as maintaining order during the show by removing disruptive people with the help of the advisor.)
- Concession Stand Crew (If your school allows you to sell food that is another way to earn money for the GSA)

These consent forms should then be given to the administration/or advisor at the meeting for liability issues for performers. Below there is an attached example of a consent form.

**Pro Tip:** Administration may not approve your runway, even with permission slips. Always have another event option as a back up.

**\*Extra Step:** If the GSA is doing the recurring option students should start making event posters to be distributed throughout the school. Students can use sites such as [canva.com](https://www.canva.com), word document, or google slides/docs (file, download as image) to create posters. Students should also reach out to the school announcements so they can broadcast the Event weeks in advance. Consider collaborating with other student groups for promoting the Runway event. Ask to speak briefly at the start of their meeting.

**Step Five:**

It's the last GSA day before the Event. Finalize components such as line-up and roles. Students have rehearsal and work out issues. Table during the following 3 Lunch days before the Runway selling tickets.

**Step Six:**

Finally, it's the day! Meet earlier than the show start time do one last run through. Make any adjustments according to the stage manager. Do Hair and Make-up. Set up concessions and ticket booth (Advisor or an appointed leader handles the money). Ushers hand out pamphlets of the show line up at the door as people enter welcoming them. Sound crew plays some waiting music and checks out the Mic one last time. Lights crew gears up. And start the show with the MC or MCs talking about GSA, how voting on top 3 will be decided and hype the crowd for the first model.

**Step Seven:**

Watch and enjoy the Show!

**Step Eight:**

After pulling it off the film students can engage in a discussion about how they are feeling and about how the night went for them over some cake or food backstage or in the GSA room.

**Discussion Questions:**

- What was your favorite part?
- What was the most challenging part for you?
- What improvements could be made next time?
- How are you feeling?