



7.1 LGBTQ History Week & Race History Weeks

Suggested Grade Level: 6-12

Time: 1 month in advance

Subject Area: History, Advocacy

Overview:

October is LGBTQ History Month, but anytime of the year is a great time to celebrate LGBTQ history. Your GSA can develop a weeklong campaign to highlight and celebrate the many ways in which LGBTQ people have been a part of all societies and cultures since the beginning of time.

While celebrating LGBTQ voices, be sure to take into consideration the boundless diversity within the LGBTQ community. Be sure to represent sexual orientations and gender identities beyond LGBT (ex. Genderfluid, Asexual, Intersex, etc.) and across a variety of voices across racial, cultural, class lines and more.

Goals:

- Learn the important roles LGBTQ people have played throughout history
- Teach other students and staff about LGBTQ people
- Create a school climate that celebrate the diversity of the LGBTQ experience

Materials:

- Materials will be determined by selection of projects

Resources:

The LGBTQ History Month website hosts many resources for you to plan a successful LGBTQ history week including an annual list of LGBTQ icons, posters, project ideas and more.

<http://www.lgbthistorymonth.com>

Procedure:

Setting the Vision

There are many projects that a GSA can take on to create a successful LGBTQ History Week. Below will be the steps you can take with your GSA to determine the scope of your LGBTQ History Week project.

LGBTQ History Month is held nationally during the month of October, however students may pick anytime of the year to hold a LGBTQ History Week celebration or do it more than once a year.

Step One:

Consider the vision the GSA has for LGBTQ History Week. Seek what knowledge the GSA already has around LGBTQ history. Who are their LGBTQ role models and icons? What important events in LGBTQ history do they want to highlight? What contributions do they want to teach others about? Keep a record of what is said.

Step Two:

Now seek the knowledge that is not yet known. What areas are students interested in learning more about?

It might be tricky to get students to think about what they don't know about so think about offering some reflective questions.

Discussion Questions:

- Do you know how LGBTQ played a role in the Civil Rights Movement?
- Who knows about the positive ways other cultures have viewed LGBTQ people?
- How have LGBTQ people contributed to popular culture and trends?

Step Three:

Comparing the two lists, have the GSA start to pick topics they would like to focus on. This is to help students start to create a focus and can change over time.

Step Four:

Ask students to create a list of student groups, teachers, and administrators they would like to get involved with supporting LGBTQ History Month.

Creating the Scope:

Step One:

Now that you have a vision and a potential list of collaborators, think about what you would like to do to during LGBTQ History Week. Additional ideas can be found online by searching “LGBTQ History Month ideas”

Below is a list of activities students may want to participate in:

- School-wide Activities
 - Student Council reads messages highlighting an LGBTQ icon each morning
 - Daily quotes from LGBTQ people on TV displays
 - Host a movie night
 - Set up a GSA information table at lunch
- Art Activities
 - Make and display posters school-wide
 - Grade-level poster contests
 - Borrow the button maker from Out4Good and make buttons
 - Create bookmarks for students to handout

Let your GSA brainstorm many possibilities beyond this short list.

Step Two:

Look at the you're the week and your list of activities. Have participants put which activities fall on which days. Some activities (like daily announcements) may happen everyday. Try and have something new happen each day of the week.

Example:

Monday – Start Daily Announcements

Tuesday – Hang Posters

Wednesday – Hand out buttons at lunch

Thursday – Host a movie night

Friday – Have students sign pledge cards and hang cards in hallways

Promote Your Event

Step One:

Look back at the list of potential student groups, teachers and administrators you listed as collaborators. Schedule meetings with each of these groups. Consider splitting the groups up between multiple GSA participants. Write out talking points and notes beforehand.

Step Two:

Share your vision with the people you are meeting with as well as your proposed activities. Let them know how they can get involved and ask for their support.

Step Three:

Spend the weeks leading up to LGBTQ History Week telling students and teachers about the upcoming events and getting any materials ready for the launch of your LGBTQ History Week!

Step Four:

Now that you know your topic areas and scope, it's time to get to work! Research your areas of interest and create any content needed for the week (posters, daily announcements, buttons, etc.)

Additional Information

The material provided above should give your GSA a good start on planning for LGBTQ History Week. Please remember to allow for flexibility from your GSA, perhaps they have a different vision for the week, please support them in exploring their interest and vision. Also don't forget the many great resources available at <http://www.lgbthistorymonth.com>

Additional Variation

Your GSA may want to consider being a part of different cultural celebrations your school may hold, like being a part of Black History Month or Hmong New Year. This lesson plan can easily be adapted so your GSA can highlight the intersections of sexual orientation and gender identity with race and cultural celebrations.

Black History Month – February

- <https://gsanetwork.org/BlackedOUTHistory> Project ideas, Icon List, Movies and more

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month – May

- Hmong New Year – November
- <https://www.glsen.org/article/asian-pacific-islander-heritage-month> Project Ideas, Timelines, Icon Lists and more

Latinx History Month – Sept. 15th-Oct. 15th

- <https://www.glsen.org/article/latinohispanic-heritage-month> Project Ideas, Timelines, Icon Lists and more

Native American History Month – November

- Indigenous Peoples Day – October (formerly known as Columbus Day)
- https://www.glsen.org/sites/default/files/NAHM_heroes.pdf