

7.4 Trans Day of Visibility #NotJustCaitlyn#NotJustCox



Suggested Grade Level: 6-12

Time: 30 minutes

Subject Area: Transgender Visibility

Overview:

Trans Visibility Day is celebrated annually on March 31st worldwide to celebrate transgender people's accomplishments and raise awareness about issues affecting the trans community. Over the years there's been increased visibility of trans identity and oftentimes that comes in terms of celebrities for better and sometimes for worse as it can breed misconceptions on trans identity. The #NotJustCaitlyn #NotJustCox campaign is to use digital media to debunk misconceptions about the transgender community. Students will be creating a short video and broadcasting it on March 31st.

Goals:

- Investigate video editing techniques and film activism
- Research and debunk misconceptions surrounding the transgender community.
- Collaborate with other students on a group project.

Materials:

- A Camera
- Editing Software
 - Pro-Tip: There are many free video editing websites and apps.
- Willing Student Actors
- Individual Posters
- Multi Color Sharpies

Procedure:

Step One:

The 1st week of March, get a camera or borrow one from your school library if able for the rest of the month. Buy a lot of Multi-Color Posters and have some sharpies or markers ready before the first meeting of March. Have a sign-up sheet printed for the people participating in the video as actors. Sign-Up sheet should have space for their names and phone number. Also, have a separate sign up sheet

for participants that are helping in other ways like creating posters and/or recruiting more actors but not being on screen.

Step Two

Inform the GSA, of the following during the 1st GSA meeting of the Month:

“Hi I am (Insert Name) and I am very excited to be here to announce a new GSA campaign we will be running for the month of March. As many of you know or don’t know that Trans Day of Visibility is at the end of this month on March 31st. It is a day that celebrates transgender people’s accomplishments and raise awareness about issues affecting the trans community. As a GSA we will be doing an easy video campaign called #NotJustCaitlyn, #NotJustCox. There has been a lot of visibility for transgender rights lately, and that is both a really good thing because that means more people feel safe coming out. However it can be a bad thing because it means there are a lot of misconceptions about trans people out there. For example, not all transgender people are like Caitlyn Jenner or even Laverne Cox in their transitions or beliefs. Also, not all trans people are transwomen. Transmen often get excluded from discussions of transness in the media. Another misconception is that trans people are either heterosexual (e.g. trans women should only like men) or faking being trans. Or the opposite that all men who date trans women are automatically gay. Or that non binary trans people are just ‘transtrenders.’ The list goes on and on. Anyway, we will be filming the week of the 13th and the week of the 20th of march. This is to allow for time to edit that last week before March 31st. The video is really simple to make and will involve GSA members holding up poster paper with trans misconceptions on the front and the truth on the back of the poster with the words #NotJustCaitlyn, #NotJustCox. For example, the front of the poster would say ‘all transgender people get a sex change surgery’ on the front, and the back it would say ‘Not all trans people can not afford a sex change operation financially or medically. And even then not all trans people want one. We are... #NotJustCaitlyn, #NotJustCox.’ If you are interested in participating in the video or in making signs for the video come up, sign up and grab a poster paper with a sharpie.”

Step Three

Allow participants to spend the rest of the 1st GSA meeting of March to create as many posters for the video as they can and decorate their posters.

Come around with the sign up sheets for the following:

- Actors
- Editors
- Sound Crew

Step Four

There are two GSA meetings during weeks before March 31st. One for the week of the 13th and One meeting for the week of the 20th. For these meeting plan activities that are easy less facilitator heavy. (E.g. Have a Self-Care day, a Game Night and/or have a movie night). This is in order to be able to pull the most students but also to be able to duck out with students to film them for the video through those two movies.

Step Five:

During the week of the 27th of march an appointed particiapnt will edit the video before March 31st.

Step Six:

On March 31st, the GSA holds a viewing party where people can view the film the GSA made for the #NotJustCaitlyn, #NotJustCox. The Viewing party will be a great opportunity to talk about trans visibility.

Trans Visibility Day Viewing Party



Suggested Grade Level: 6-12

Time: 30 minutes

Subject Area: Transgender Visibility and Calendar

Overview:

Students will host a viewing party with snacks for GSA members to watch their #NotJustCaitlyn, #NotJustCox film as well as a powerful and informative TEDTalk by Supermodel Geena Rocero about transgender visibility. In this moving TED Talk she comes out to the world as a transgender women in order to raise awareness to transgender issues. Lastly, students will reflect on Transgender Day of Visibility.

Goals:

- Investigate transgender identity through digital media and storytelling.
- Research misconceptions surrounding the transgender community.
- Build Communal Cohesion by watching their completed film project.

Materials:

- A TV Screen
- Connection to TED Talks youtube channel or website.
- Access to the #NotJustCaitlyn,#NotJustCox student film
 - Via Youtube, Google Drive or Flashdrive
- Snacks for Viewing Party

Procedure:

Step One:

Watch Geena Rocero’s TED Talk titled “Why I Must Come Out.” and discuss the following questions:

- Why Must Geena Rocero come out?
- Discuss the importance of trans visibility.
- What are some reasons why transgender people would not want to come out about being transgender?

Step Two:

Watch the GSA film #NotJustCaitlyn, #NotJust Cox

Watch the GSA created video and discuss the following questions:

- Discuss what were some misconceptions you learned about that interested you or that you may not have known previously.
- Discuss what was some positive outcomes as a result of the campaign.
- What would ideal transgender representation in the media look like to you?

Step Three:

Watch a Trans focused video of your choosing. Round off the meeting by a transgender focused video of your choosing and discuss it.