

Silent Conversations

Sit with a classmate and answer the following questions by passing a piece of paper back and forth.

1. Do you think that people's sexual orientation is fixed at birth, or do you think that it is a choice that people make later in life. For example, do you think people are born gay or heterosexual or do you think our orientation is something we choose?

2. Do you share your parents' attitudes about homosexuality and gay rights, or do you have a different point of view than your parents? Explain.

3. Why do you think that people put down something or someone's behavior by saying, "That is so gay?" What could each of us do to stop these put downs that are related to people's sexual orientation?

4. Do you think that gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to marry, or do you feel that marriage should be reserved for heterosexual couples? Explain.

5. Some people say that the current struggle for Gay Rights is similar to the past struggles for Civil Rights? Do you see similarities between the current and past struggles for equal rights? Why or why not?

Let's try a class discussion. Write a question or point on this topic on the board and let other classmates respond.

Today is a Day of Silence, to call attention to the discrimination against Gay and Lesbian Youth.

Take out a piece of scratch paper and answer each of the following questions.

1. Have you heard people at Logan called “Faggot” or “Dyke”, or heard the word “Gay” to describe something that is bad? If so, describe what happened?
2. What **emotions** do you think that Gay and Lesbian students feel when they are called, or hear, these names?
3. Do all students have the right to feel safe at school?
4. Why do you think people use these words?
5. Do you know the origin of the words “faggot” or “dyke?”

Quietly read the two readings: History of “Faggot” and History of “Dyke”

Silent Conversation:

After reading these two articles, have a silent conversation with a classmate about the following questions. Write and share your answers silently. Feel free to ask your classmate more about their responses.