

LEARNING INTENTIONS

- » Define sexual diversity.
- » Understand how homophobia and discrimination affect everyone's wellbeing.
- » Recognise that same sex attracted people do not fit in to stereotypes.
- » List ways to be more inclusive of people who are gay or lesbian.

OUTLINE

This lesson explores the lives of gay, lesbian and bisexual people. It allows students to put themselves in someone else's shoes.

SUGGESTED PROCEDURE

1. Interactive Exercise: Stepping Out
2. Activity: Jaimee's Video
3. Exercise: Questions About Jaimee's video
4. Interactive Exercise: Coming out
5. Building Blocks of Identity, Sexuality

ACTIVITY METHODS

INTERACTIVE EXERCISE: STEPPING OUT

Before watching 'Jaimee's Video' ask your students to separate themselves from their usual friendship groups, then divide the class in to two groups with a physical space between each half. Have students be seated in their new areas.

Tell students to write the numbers 1 to 10 down the left hand side of a page.

Invite students to imagine themselves in the role of a young person who is aged 16 years or older and is going out with someone they are really into. Advise students that they should not play themselves in this activity. Rather, encourage them to imagine themselves in someone else's shoes. Tell students on the left-hand side of the room that their character is going out with someone of the same

sex, while the character of those on the right-hand side of the room is going out with someone of the opposite sex.

Tell students you are going to ask them 10 questions which they need to answer as their character. Students can only answer 'yes' or 'no' to these questions.

Teacher note: It is important to explain to students at the start of this exercise that they are to answer 'no' if they are uncertain about how to respond to any of the questions. This allows you to point out that if they were unsure in this activity, they should imagine what it must be like to live with that kind of uncertainty.

Ask students to write down how many times they answered yes and then stand up after question 10.

Exercise questions

1. Could you easily talk to your parents or close relatives about your sexuality?
2. Would you invite your partner home with you to meet your family?
3. Would you be able to talk to your friends about what you did on the weekend with your partner without worrying about their reaction?
4. Do you see other couples like yours when you are heading home from school?
5. When you go out with a group of friends to the movies, would you feel comfortable giving your partner a kiss or hug?
6. Would you be able to take your partner to the school formal?
7. Do teachers discuss relationships like yours in lessons at school?
8. Would you share pictures on Facebook of you and your partner together?
9. Can you name four famous Australians – such as pop stars, sports people, politicians

Encouraging 13-14 year old children to imagine being 16 (age of consent) in order to complete an empathy exercise.