Meeting 1 ...
Getting Off to the Right Start

Goals: Perform introductions, create ground rules for meetings, elect officers, determine overall purpose(s) of the GSA (advocacy, peer support, community support, education/knowledge, small group support)

Icebreaker 1: Briefly discuss the concept of safety/ground rules. Have members write the ground rules that they feel are important.

Icebreaker 2: Everyone writes on a sheet of paper: 1. What brought them to the group; 2. What they hope to get from the group; 3. What they want the group to accomplish/focus on (such as advocacy, knowledge, peer support, etc. - can be more than one).

Suggested Activities

- Have those interested in being President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer declare their desire, and explain to the group why they feel they would be a good fit for the position. Arrange the time/means to vote for club officers. (If not this meeting, schedule for a future meeting, or between meetings.)
- Use the Icebreaker #1 sheets to discuss possible ground rules for the group. When the rules are agreed to, write them on a poster for display (or have someone do it before the next meeting).
- Use the Icebreaker #2 papers to discuss what the focal point(s) of the group will be. Try to incorporate everyone's desires to some degree. Plan to expend more energy on meetings with more member interest. *(Reassess this focus after the initial 10 meetings in case it changes.)*
- If you do not have a mission statement yet, use the members' reasons for being there to help create one as a group. Vote on the final version. (Sample mission statements are on the website).

Tips

- Make sure you advertise your first meeting on the announcements, on posters, and by word of mouth. Talk with/invite your teachers to the first meeting. Ask your teachers to spread the word to their classes. Have cookies or some other snack if possible.
- Make sure to prepare in advance with: paper/index cards for icebreakers; pens/pencils; sample mission statements; information with different GSA general goals (advocacy, education/knowledge, peer/community support, small group support).