

Meeting 2 ...

Language and Terminology

Goals: Discuss current societal and preferred group use of LGBTQ+ terminology. Help members work together to acknowledge that not every person will have the same preferred language guidelines.

Icebreaker: Have everyone write the most commonly used LGBTQ+ terms they can think of (positive and negative).

Suggested Activities

- Discuss the terms from the icebreaker as a group. Who considers certain terms offensive? What terms are not offensive? Where are there areas of disagreement? What terms can the group agree to use or avoid?
- Discuss how language differences that arise will be handled. Come up with a non-confrontational way to let people know if their language use bothers you. Agree to allow members to learn and grow. Remember that allies who attend may need help learning the terminology.
- Discuss how language is used in society, and the influence of language as well as the assumptions that underlie it.
- Write up a language guide of school-safe terminology to provide to teachers, staff, and admin. Ask your Faculty Advisor to distribute the guide to all faculty/staff/admin (it can be placed in mailboxes or emailed to the school as a whole). Let teachers know (on the guide) that you (advisor, officers, volunteers) are available if they want to learn more, or have more questions.

Tips

- Print the LGBTQ+ Language Guide from the website for a more detailed discussion springboard.
- Print the Gender Unicorn sheet from the website as a discussion springboard.
- Have paper, writing implements available for all attendees.
- Remember, language is ever evolving. If you make a mistake, and are corrected, please be willing to listen, learn, and adapt.