

Queer, Trans-Affirming & Collective Value
Wednesday

Before You Begin

The work of empowering and centering the voices of Queer and Trans people of color in our classrooms and schools is an evolving process that requires consistent reflection, engagement of all staff and students, and resources. These materials are meant to be used to start, continue, and build on the conversations that you are already having.

Please make sure you can explain the meaning of the vocabulary words listed below.

Make sure that you understand that Coming Out of the closet, often shortened to coming out, is a metaphor for LGBT people's self-disclosure of their sexual orientation or of their gender identity. ... LGBT people who have already revealed or no longer conceal their sexual orientation or gender identity are out, i.e. openly LGBT.

Content/Goal

Students will think deeply through the concept of "collective value" and the impact/importance of inclusion and empowerment of all identities.

Intersectional identities impact Black trans and queer individuals in specific and unique ways.

Identity—like **gender**, social class, **age**, sexual orientation, race and ethnicity, religion, **age** and disability—play significant roles in determining how we understand and experience the world, as well as shaping the types of opportunities and challenges we face.

Standards

Identity 1 ID.6-8.1 I know and like who I am and can comfortably talk about my family and myself and describe our various group identities.

Identity 3 ID.6-8.3I know that overlapping identities combine to make me who I am and that none of my group identities on their own fully defines me or any other person.

Identity 4 ID.6-8.4 I feel good about my many identities and know they don't make me better than people with other identities.

Materials

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7qovpFAGrQ>

https://newsela.com/read/lib-lil-nas-x-queer/id/57896/?collection_id=2000000192&search_id=f_946224a-1a63-4879-898e-cc816fc689f0

Vocabulary

Gender identity: One's concept of self as male, female or neither (see "genderqueer"). A person's gender identity may not align with their sex at birth; not the same as sexual orientation. **LGBTQ-** Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning or Queer

Cisgender: A person whose gender identity aligns with the sex they were assigned at birth.

Grade 7

Gender role: The social behaviors that culture assigns to each sex. Examples: Girls play with dolls, boys play with trucks; women are nurturing, men are stoic.

Learning Plan

Please read the vocabulary words and their meanings to the students.

Teacher: In sixth grade, you learned that Gender is a spectrum. “The **Gender Spectrum**” refers to the idea that there are many **gender** identities and there are people that do not identify as cisgender. You also learned that Black members of the LBGTQ community are a multiply marginalized population subject to microaggressions associated with both racism and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Lil Nas X is a Black homosexual artist. Please enjoy *Old Town Road* before we discuss what it means to come out.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7qovpFAGrQ>

Teacher : I hope you enjoyed that video. Lil Nas X is one of the most famous Gay people in the world. He came out on the last day of Pride Month in June of 2019.

What does it mean to come out?

Please allow one of the kids to explain what it means to come out. Validate, add to or correct the students response.

Now, ask the students. Why did Lil Nas X, a Black member of the LBGTQ community wait so long to come out?

Why did he share that he was a member of the LBGTQ community? How do

gender roles and racism impact members of the Black LBGTQ community?

How do you think Lil Nas X felt after he shared that he is a member of the LBGTQ community?

Most Hip Hop artists are cisgender Black men and most Country artists are cisgender White men, did that impact Lil Nas’s decision to wait to come out? Why or why not?

Please read *Lil Nas X came out, but has hip-hop? Macho Culture and Homosexuality*

https://newsela.com/read/lib-lil-nas-x-queer/id/57896/?collection_id=2000000192&search_id=f946224a-1a63-4879-898e-cc816fc689f0 (Must log into Newsela - go to Clever and select login with Google. PDF is provided in drive as a back up.

After you read the article, please answer the following questions in your journal.

What does Lil Nas X mean when he says, "I feel like I'm opening the doors for more people."

Have you ever thought how it feels to be expected to act/look a certain way because of the sex that you were assigned at birth?

How might it feel to think less of yourself and to begin believing the racist and homophobic views that people share?

The article says, "Now there are more LGBT black male voices." How is the younger generation influencing the fact that there are more LGBT black male voices? What do you think about this fact?

How can you use your identities to empower and liberate others and yourself?

Alternate Article: You may also use this article about Candace Parker of the Chicago Sky ([HERE](#)). Questions for this article can focus on intersectional identities and how this influences people's actions and decisions.

In closing it is important to remember that overlapping identities combine to make us who we are. The identity of one group is not more important than the identity of another group. It is important to include and value the identity of every group, especially Black members of the LBGTQ community. It is also important to share your truth! Don't worry about the haters! Be true to you, be you!

Exit Slip/Project/Performance -The student responses to the questions.