

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.

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 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.

Action 19 AC.6-8.19 I will speak up or take action when I see unfairness, even if those around me do not, and I will not let others convince me to go along with injustice.

Materials

[Janelle Monáe on Growing Up Queer and Black | The New Yorker](#)

Blossom C. Brown, a Black trans woman speaks her truth about anti-blackness and erasing the stories of Black trans women

YouTube Video link - [HERE](#)

Vocabulary

LGBTQ- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning or Queer

Queer- Once a pejorative term, queer is a term reclaimed and used by some within academic circles and the LGBTQ community to describe sexual orientations and gender identities that are not exclusively heterosexual or cisgender. (definition from Teaching Tolerance)

Marginalized- a person, group, treated as insignificant

Cisgender- a person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with their birth sex.

Anti Black- opposed to or hostile toward black people

Learning Plan

Please read the vocabulary words and their meanings to the students. **Teacher**: In seventh grade, you learned 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.

You also learned that Black members of the LGBTQ community are a multiply marginalized population subject to microaggressions associated with both racism and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

In this [short video](#), **Janelle Monae, an artist** talks about the obligation she has as a young, queer, black woman to represent marginalized people through her platform. Janelle Monae also discusses redefining what it means to be a woman and connecting people through art.

Teacher : I hope you enjoyed the video. In the video, Janelle Monae said, "Redefining what it means to be a woman has never been about making people comfortable.

What does Janelle Monae mean?

Please allow one of the kids to explain what they think Janelle Monae means
Validate, add to or correct the students response.

The truth is sometimes other people will be uncomfortable in your presence. That is their

problem. Remember to always be true to you. You are not responsible for making people comfortable.

Why do people feel discomfort in the presence of members of the LGBTQ community?

Please allow the kids to jot down their answers to this question.

Teacher: trans women, members of the Black LGBTQ community are targeted and mistreated by cisgender people and law enforcement officers. It is never okay to cause harm to a person because you disagree or feel uncomfortable with the way they look, sound or present themselves.

Unfortunately, Black Trans women face significant discrimination in many areas of life, including in employment and access to housing, and face physical and sexual violence and hate crimes, including from partners; in the United States, discrimination is particularly severe towards trans women who are Black who often face the intersection of **transphobia and racism**.

Jaycee, a Black trans woman shared her thoughts about being a trans woman.

"A lot of the time our safety relies on the ability to pass as cis women in society because being clocked out as trans comes with violence and we can't confidently depend on the public and police officers to protect us so we do our best to protect ourselves, even if it means to present a certain way."

Now, Please take 2-3 minutes to write how you would feel if you had to present a certain way just to protect yourself and save your life.

Next, you will meet Blossom C. Brown, a Black trans woman that passionately shares the truth! BLACK TRANS LIVES MATTER. [HERE](#)

YouTube Video link - [HERE](#)

After you watch the video, please respond to Blossom Brown. You can create a song, rap, google slide, picture or poem. **Your creation should capture the feelings, emotion or response that you have about Janelle or Blossom's message and request to have their identities affirmed.**

Project Expectations

- Incorporate the words of Blossom or Janelle

- Mention the identities and experiences of Janelle, Blossom or another Black queer identifying person

Blossom is Black and trans, she is targeted because of her overlapping identities. She should be free to live without fearing violence against her.

Janelle is a Black, queer woman from a working class family. She is a member of four or more marginalized groups.

Lesson Closing:

Share how can you use your identities to empower and liberate others and yourself? - **Use** at least three of the vocabulary words in your presentation.

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 LGBTQ community. It is also important to share your truth! Don't worry about the haters! Be true to you, be you! You are not responsible for making others comfortable.

Exit Slip/Project/Performance -The students will create a project that validates the lives of trans people. Please allow the kids to share their presentations with the class.