Pre-Reading Reflection

Step 1 Please complete **Part 1: 'Pre-Education' Reflection'** linked [HERE](#) before moving on to the next slides.

Origin dates back to 1300's

The F-word has been part of the English language since the 1300s. During the European Inquisitions, the term referred to a bundle of sticks that would be used to set fire to people who opposed the teachings of the Catholic Church. To avoid being killed, some people shifted their beliefs in support of the Church. Though no longer seen as a threat to political and social life, those who once opposed the Church would be forced to wear a "fagot" design embroidered on their sleeve to signify a damaged reputation. This practice shifted the meaning of the word, and it became used to describe things that were a burden or difficult to bear. Often, people would use the word as a sexist insult to describe women who were perceived to be limiting the freedom of their husbands.
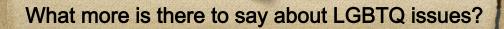
Listen to Students

Later

Later on, the word was used to refer to men who were less masculine than people thought they should be. During the twentieth century, the F-word became the slur most used to disrespect gay men and men perceived to be gay. Because of the widespread anti-LGBTQ+ bias that exists, the slur has become an insult that is often used to insult both the LGBTQ+ community and straight men.

Hiding to be Safe

Though language is one tool that is used to reinforce the system of anti-LGBTQ+ bigotry, it is important to acknowledge a larger context of mistreatment and discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community. In many communities and families in the U.S., people who are LGBTQ+ are forced to hide their identities in order to be physically and psychologically safe. LGBTQ+ youth represent almost 40 percent of homeless youth in the U.S. due to family rejection and are much more likely report high levels of depression.

What more is there to say about LGBTQ issues?

Doing Harm

In using anti-LGBTQ+ slurs, people communicate support for a culture that makes LGBTQ+ people unsafe. This language not only reinforces the policies and practices that harm LGBTQ+ people, but it also communicates that LGBTQ+ people don't deserve to be respected and valued.

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5 Tips for Being an Ally

Post-Reading Reflection

Step 3 Please complete Part 3: 'Follow Up Questions' return to same link: HERE to complete today's work.