

# Challenging Case Studies

## CASE STUDY #1

You are a high school teacher and head of the English department. After attending this workshop your administrator asks you to prepare a 20 minute presentation for the next staff meeting. He wants you to focus on ways that addressing LGBT issues align with state and district policy. You know there is some significant opposition from several teachers, but think that your principal is mostly supportive.

What information should be included in the presentation?

How will you address the potential concerns from your challenging colleagues?

What support might you need and from whom?

## CASE STUDY #2

You are a high school counselor. One day a Latina student, who you have known as Celia, comes out to you as transgender. Celia already wears what is considered “boy clothes” and now wants to be called “Max” during school. Max tells you that his family is not supportive.

How do you initially respond to Max?

What can you do to make sure Max is safe and feels affirmed at school?

How can you help Max address his identity with his family? What cultural issues might be at play?

What support or resources might you need to best help Max?

## CASE STUDY #3

You are a high school history teacher and your district is making an effort to include LGBT people, themes and history into the curriculum. You are asked to find ways to incorporate LGBT issues throughout your existing

curriculum.

What might be some of the benefits for LGBT students of providing an LGBT-inclusive curriculum? For non-LGBT students?

Where can you integrate LGBT people, themes and history into your existing lesson plans on both a larger scale within unit of study, and on a smaller scale within student daily work and readings?

How can you ensure that these new pieces are also culturally relevant to your students?

What challenges may arise when adding LGBT issues into your curriculum and how might you overcome them?

What opportunities exist for collaboration with colleagues within and outside of your department?

## CASE STUDY #4

You are a middle school principal. Robert is an eighth grade male student who often acts and dresses in a traditionally “feminine” manner. One day, Robert wears a skirt and blouse to school. After hearing some students tease him, one of his teachers sends Robert to your office with a request that he be sent home to change his clothes.

What are the issues at play here?

How do you respond to Robert when he appears in your office? What do you do in the moment? Short-term and long-term?

What information and support might your entire staff need to ensure that transgender and gender non-conforming students are able to enjoy a safe, respectful and healthy learning environment?

## CASE STUDY #5

You are a classroom teacher and have just finished a unit on political movements of the 1960s, in which you included materials from the Civil Rights Movement, Feminist Movement, American Indian Movement and LGBT Rights Movement. The next day you get a call from an African-American mother of one of your students who is unhappy with the inclusion of LGBT content. She says, "homosexuality is a sin and should not be taught in school". She also says, "It's not right to equate being gay with being black. People choose to be gay. I don't choose to be black."

What are the issues at play here?

How do you respond to this parent in the moment?

What support might you need from colleagues or administrators?

## CASE STUDY #6

You are a middle school teacher. During class one day you ask students to work in pairs outside of school to complete an assignment. You notice that when Maria moves her chair to pair up with Jessica, Jessica glares at her and turns away. When you walk over to ask about what is going on, Jessica yells, "I'm not working with her. I don't want other people to think I'm a dyke like she is."

What are the issues at play here?

How do you respond to Jessica in the moment? What do you say to Maria in the moment?

What ways might you use this as a teachable moment for all of your students?

What support might you need from colleagues, administrators or others?