

FAIR Education Act: LGBTQ-Inclusive Lessons and Activities

Starting on January 1, 2012, your school is **required** to teach about lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender, and questioning (LGBTQ) people and issues in your social studies and history classes. Help monitor your teachers, administrators and school officials, and if they are not following the new state mandated guidelines, you can use these resources to make sure your class lessons are fair, accurate, inclusive and respectful. Visit www.gsanetwork.org/FAIR to fill out your school's LGBTQ Report Card and tell us whether or not your school is following the law.

Here is an example discussion YOU can have with your History teacher:

You: Hi History-Teacher! Now that the FAIR Education Act has passed, did you know you are required to teach about LGBTQ people and issues? Have you thought about what lesson plans or activities you will include to make sure you are following the California Department of Education's requirements?

History-Teacher: No I haven't, the law is so new that I have barely had time to think about how to update my lesson plans!

You: Luckily I have this fabulous Resource List that I would like to share with you. Please share this resource list to the rest of the history department and to the social studies department at your next staff meeting!

History-Teacher: Thank you! This is so helpful, and I'm excited to do my part to make sure that lessons are fair, accurate, inclusive and respectful!

Films: *With Discussion Guides or Lesson Plans*

All God's Children. This film presents a political, social, and religious analysis of sexual orientation within the context of the traditional African American values of freedom, inclusion, and the Christian ethic.

<http://www.womanvision.org/all-gods-children.html>

Bullied. This film tells the story of a school district that was taken to court for their inability to protect a bullied gay student.

<http://www.tolerance.org/bullied?newsletter=FB081910>

Brother Outsider: The Life of Bayard Rustin. A tireless crusader for justice, a disciple of Gandhi, a mentor to Martin Luther King Jr., and the architect of the legendary 1963 March on Washington, Rustin dared to live as an openly gay man during the fiercely homophobic 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s.

<http://frameline.org/youthinmotion/brotheroutsider.html#guides>

Don't Erase my History. A group of Bay Area youth take us on a quest for the very history that has "no name" in their schools.

<http://www.allyaction.org>

Gay Pioneers. Focuses on the first public protests for equal rights for gay and lesbian people. <http://gaypioneers.com>

In My Shoes: Stories of Youth with LGBT Parents. A student-made film that explores the lives of five youths with one or more LGBTQ parents. <http://www.colage.org/inmyshoes>

Not In Our Town Northern California: When Hate Happens Here. A look at five communities over a five-year period as they band together to fight back when a member of their community is a target of bigotry.

<http://www.theworkinggroup.org/orderatape.html#01>

Out in the Silence: A Campaign for Fairness & Equality in Rural and Small Town America. Follows a small town ignited by controversy over the announcement of a same-sex marriage and the bullying of an LGBTQ teen.

<http://wpsu.org/outinthesilence>

Out of the Past. Told through the eyes of Kelli Peterson, a 17-year-old high school student in Salt Lake City, Utah, Out of the Past explores Kelli's history-making experience of forming a gay-straight alliance (GSA) in her public school.

<http://www.pbs.org/outofthepast/> **Lesson Guide:** <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/booklink/record/1507.html>

Straight from the Heart. Explores parents' journeys to a new understanding of their lesbian and gay children. <http://www.womanvision.org/straight-from-the-heart.html>

Straightlaced: How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up. The first feature-length documentary to explore how gender roles and expectations restrict the lives and growth of young people. <http://groundspark.org/our-films-and-campaigns/straightlaced>

Visionaries & Victories: Early Leaders in the LGBT Movement. Two films profiling three of the founders of the movement for LGBT equality: Del Martin, Phyllis Lyon, and Harry Hay. <http://frameline.org/youthinmotion/visionariesvictories.html>

Films: Without Discussion Guides or Lesson Plans

De Colores. A 28-minute bilingual documentary about how Latino families are replacing the deep roots of homophobia with the even deeper roots of love and tolerance. <http://www.womanvision.org/de-colores.html>

On These Shoulders We Stand. An historical account of early gay life and activism in Los Angeles told by the people who lived it. <http://impactstories.org/film.htm>

Tres Gotas de Agua (Three Drops of Water). Three Latina women talk about their children's coming out processes. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLtHcbmvjAg>

Two Spirits. This movie explores the cultural context of gender identity through the Navajo tradition of honoring those people with the body of one gender but the spirit of another, including the murder of Fred Martinez, one of those honored people, by a white outsider. <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/two-spirits/>

General Resources: Textbooks, Timelines, Lesson Plans and More!

Gay America: Struggle for Equality. A textbook that chronicles the struggle for gay rights in US history, for grades 7-12. <http://www.linasalsenas.com/teens.html>

Living Memory LGBT History Timeline. A timeline from the twentieth century through 2006 that includes historical figures, historical events and laws, and other LGBTQ moments in history. http://www.forge-forward.org/handouts/LGBT_elder_timeline.pdf

LGBTQ Icons of History Bio Pages. A collection of the biographies of 31 LGBTQ icons through history, including but not limited to George Washington Carver, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Kiyoshi Kuromia. <http://www.lgbthistorymonth.com>

Media Construction of Social Justice. Eight-unit series of classroom-ready teacher guides, student handouts, and other materials covering social justice topics (including LGBTQ rights) through analysis and discussion of media portrayals. <http://www.ithaca.edu/looksharp/?action=justice>

No Name-Calling Week Resource Kit. Lesson plans for elementary, middle, and high schools. <http://www.nonamecallingweek.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/resources/index.html>

Teaching Tolerance: A Project of the Southern Poverty Law Center. A collection of lesson plans, activities, professional development resources and more. Themes range from race to sexual identity to immigrant rights. <http://www.splcenter.org/what-we-do/teaching-tolerance>

Timeline of LGBT History. A timeline from the twenty-fifth century BCE through 2006 about historical figures, historical events and laws, and other instances of LGBTQ moments in history. http://www.ct.gov/dcf/lib/dcf/wmv/pdf/timeline_of_lgbt_history.pdf

Unheard Voices. An oral history and curriculum project that will help educators integrate LGBT history, people and issues into their instructional programs. Coming September 26th, 2011 www.adl.org/education/curriculum_connections/unheard-voices

When Did It Happen: An LGBT History Lesson. A fun and interactive way to teach youth about important figures in LGBTQ history. <http://www.glsen.org/cgi-bin/iowa/all/library/record/2440.html>