

CREATING

GSAS IN

2015

A Toolkit

ICE BREAKERS!

Ice breakers are important because they can loosen up even the stiffest of crowds. There are many different types of icebreakers that fit different crowds of different sizes. Below is the link to a guide of 40 icebreakers for groups of all sizes and backgrounds. A few of those icebreakers are also listed below.

http://insight.typepad.co.uk/40_icebreakers_for_small_groups.pdf

- Facts or Fictions (2 truths and a lie)

- What If questions:

(have a few pre made and let the group come up with their own)

- The Name Game:

(have everyone introduce themselves and attach an adjective that describes one of their dominant characteristic and starts with the first letter of their name. For example, Hello my name is Amazing Anthony).

- Desert Island:

(announce that we all have be desert on a random island. You were only allowed to take three personal items off the ship. a music playing device, a book "not the bible" and one luxury item. Have anyone talk a little about the three items they took and why?

- Would you Rather:

(Make a list of would you rather questions then have the group make their own. For example, would you rather fly or swim?).



BUILDING FLYERS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY GSA!!

| YES!!!! | no.... |
|---|---|
| Make the flyers COLORFUL! | DON'T have a lot of text; don't do it. It's exhausting to read and way too much to deal with! Usually it becomes redundant and you end up saying the same thing over and over. Then you have to shrink the text in order to fit it all in there which just makes it hard to read and after a while people just look over the flyer and move on to something else... |
| Eye catching!!! | DON'T give too much information, Leave them guessing! |
| Cater to your audience! | If you use photos make sure EVERYONE is smiling!!! |
| Offer Food! & announce it on the flyer! | DON'T use long links! |

JACKSON AREA
TEEN COMMUNITY GSA
 (Gay Straight Alliance)
LGBT Group for Teens (13-19)
Somewhere To BE YOU!!!

When: June 21st 2-5 P.M.
 Where: Eudora Welty Library
 (Meeting Room) 300 N. State St.

FREE FOOD & FUN!!

FOR MORE INFO:

✉ tcengsa@mssafeschools.org ☎ (662)-205-6772

@jackson_tcengsa facebook.com/mssafeschools @Jackson_TeenGSA

JACKSON AREA
Teen Community GSA
 (Gay Straight Alliance)

LGBT Group for teens (13-19)
Somewhere To BE YOU!!!
FREE FOOD & FUN!!

WHEN: FEBRUARY 28TH 2-5 P.M.
 WHERE: EUDORA WELTY LIBRARY
 (MEETING ROOM) 300 N. STATE ST

FOR MORE INFO:

✉ tcengsa@mssafeschools.org ☎ (662)-205-6772

@jackson_tcengsa facebook.com/mssafeschools @Jackson_TeenGSA

Invites you to join our Youth Council!

_____ is youth led. We believe that youth have the power to lead the fight against homophobia and transphobia while creating solutions for social justice in our schools.

Youth Council members come from various schools across New Orleans, and represent the voices of youth activists and GSAs throughout the city. Members lead their own clubs, trainings and conferences, help plan New Orleans' GSA Network's programs, and participate in social justice activities. Thereby gaining valuable leadership skills. Youth Council members currently meet twice a month, and is open to students already a part of a local high school GSA or similar clubs.

Dates: June 13th & 27th
 Time: 2:30pm - 4:30pm
 Location: 1529 Oretha Castle Haley

Information please contact Anthony,
 The GSA organizer @ 504-320-9563, or email Nola@gsanetwork.org

Don't have a GSA at your school yet? Come to the New Orleans Community GSA! We invite all LGBTQ* youth and straight alliances to join us for leadership development, community building, and more!

When: Every Saturday from 2:30-4:30PM!
Where: The Main Library, 219 Loyola Ave.
(in the African-American Resource Center!)



Snacks and bus tokens provided!

Ages 13-24
Youth only!



For more information please contact Anthony, GSA Organizer at 504-320-9563, or E-mail Nola@gsanetwork.org

HOW DO WE DO OUTREACH?

Well that is a great question. In 2015 there are dozens ways (physical, online, etc) that we can do outreach. How do we define outreach? To us outreach is any way that you can "reach" out to and get the attention of your target audience whether that is by radio, newspaper ad, or smoke signals. Whatever works works and we consider that OUTREACH!!!!

So let's break it down. In the following section we broke down outreach into two different types; physical and online. Let's start with the physical.

Physical Outreach!

FLYERS: Though this seems old school, it works. There are few ways that are as cost effective as posting or handing out flyers around town.

MINI FLYERS: These can be hand cut and handed out at festivals or events around your city, stuck on cars, or left at coffee shops. Just print four flyers on one page and hand cut them to give out.



ADULT BACKERS/SPONSORS: Finding people (a lot of times adults) that are willing to help, but stay out of the way and out of the spotlight, is useful. These adults might also be willing to donate food and drinks or other meeting supplies that you may need that are not in your budget. They can help spread the word and introduce young people in their lives to the CGSA.

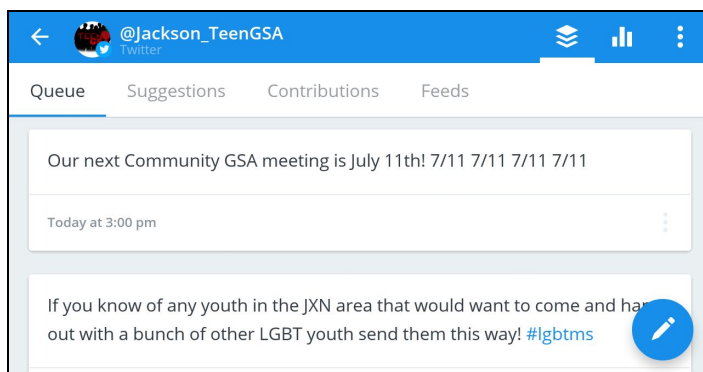
NEWSPAPERS/NEWS MEDIA: Using free classifieds pages or events pages in local newspapers and magazines can help you reach your widest possible viewing audience. Be careful with news sources though, they are still looking for a story and can be difficult to manage. Your youth probably won't want to be on the 10 o'clock news, so having a designated media person is a good way to let the news get their story, get the word out about your event, and protect your youth all at the same time.

- Meet people where they are
- Listen to your community
- Make written information friendly and easy to understand
- Be consistent! check up on youth thru site visits at school or in the community.

Online Outreach!

Social Media Outreach is a good way to spread the word about an event, project, organizational needs, or to just keep in contact with others. Below are a few examples of social media outlets and how they can be used for outreach for a Community GSA.

- Create a Facebook page and keep it updated
- Create Facebook events and invite as many people as you like. Let guests know they should invite the young people they know.
- Make a Instagram page to share beautiful pictures with the world!
- Make sure you talk about your incentives in your online posts. Like FREE FOOD or COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS.
- The app Groupme is great for reaching all of your youth at one time. You can plan meetings and have group discussions. It is free and works with all phones including non smart phones.
- Twitter is another social media that can be used to engage a wider audience. It isn't as large or heavy as Facebook which makes it easier to keep things simple.
- Other sites like Tumblr, Vine and Snapchat can be used to reach out to youth as well. Some like Tumblr and Snapchat are better used for youth you are already in contact with. Vine and Tumblr can be used to find more youth for your LGSA.
- Buffer is a free app that allows you to be consistent on some of your social media accounts



by "buffering" up to 10 posts and scheduling when they will be posted. You can use buffer on both android and apple devices.

WHAT WORKS FOR US?

- Collaborating with other LGBTQ organizations that encounter youth but do not already have youth serving programs and can direct youth to us.

- Empowering youth to own the GSA as their own and lead the time and space in topics and activities that interest them.
- Having open and honest dialogue and forming trusting relationships with parents of youth attending GSA. (Remember, parents have the power to veto their youths participation.)
- Conversations with other Community GSAs on what they are doing and how your GSAs can support and learn from each other.

- We do site visits and skillshares.
Brainstorming together with other people that may have new perspectives and fresher looks on old problems is usually super helpful.



- Giving flyers to adults at adult specific LGBT events. Sometimes they want to come but let them know that these are for youth only.
- Giving youth the space at meetings to talk about what's on their mind even if it deviates from the established curriculum.
- Choosing a neutral location for meetings that is easily accessible by youth from a variety of demographics. (ex: using a church as a meeting space may make some youth uncomfortable)
- Using discussion to critically analyze current events and how they impact the lives of local LGBTQ youth.

TOOLS WE USED TO DEVELOP LESSON PLANS!

- Socially conscious articles and media clips that explain complex social justice concepts (ex: privilege, race, gender expression) in easily accessible ways.
- Getting to know you activities borrowed from other meetings, conferences, or social events.
- GSA Network has a bunch of resources and ideas on their website that we use to come up with ideas for fundraising and group activities.

- Check out these pages on their website:
 - Fun Things to Do
 - Posters, Movies & More
 - Recommended Movies (which breaks it down by Fun, Series, and Documentary)
- Surveys, questionnaires, and conversation with youth about topics they'd like to learn about and incorporating those ideas in lesson plans.
- Lists of holidays and activities to provide youth with opportunities to celebrate in inclusive and non-normative ways (ex: Using Black History Month to discuss LGBTQ Black people who propelled the Civil Rights Movement forward).
- What work for us is online resources such as True Colors GSA curriculum!
 - While we don't use every little detail we do get a few ideas for events, fundraisers, and even movie ideas.

<http://www.ourtruecolors.org/Programs/GSA-Youth-Leadership/PDF/GSA-Curriculum.pdf>

NOTES!!!

[illegible]

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.