

How to Support LGBTQ+ Students

GSA Board
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A Spectrum of Identities

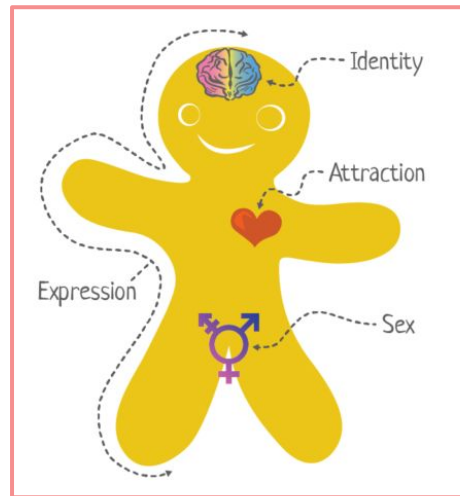
Every person is different in the way they identify and express themselves

Sexuality

- Sexual attraction
 - Heterosexual
 - Homosexual
 - Bisexual
 - Pansexual
 - Asexual
- Romantic attraction
 - May or may not align with sexual attraction

Gender

- Gender Identity
 - Cisgender
 - Transgender (Non-binary, genderfluid, etc)
- Gender Expression
 - Masculine
 - Feminine
 - Androgynous
- Biological Sex
 - Male
 - Female
 - Intersex



How to Be Respectful

1. Use preferred name and pronouns
 - a. Double check who to use these around if they're still coming out
2. Remember that they are still the same person, regardless of gender or sexuality
3. Correct mistakes
 - a. Don't make a slip of the tongue into a big deal
4. Correct other people's mistakes
 - a. Don't be aggressive, people will act defensive and won't get the message
5. Keep it to yourself!
 - a. If someone is still coming out, don't spread it around. Let them take their time and choose who they trust
6. Stand by them against homophobia/transphobia
 - a. Show that you will support them through the bad times as well as the good times



Don't be afraid to ask questions!

Once someone is comfortable enough to come out to you, please ask questions to clear up any misunderstandings. Just be respectful!



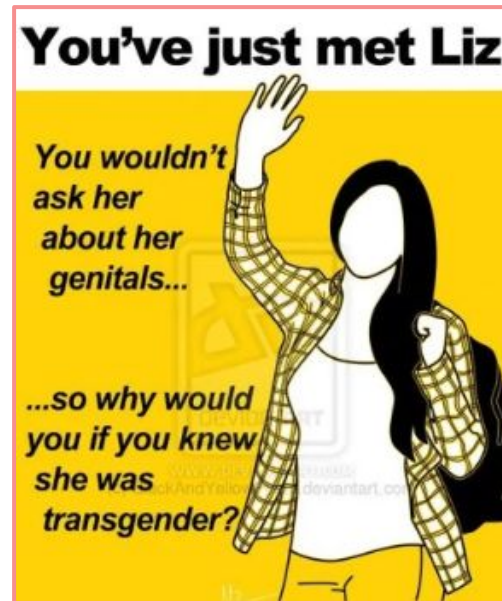
Some Things NOT to Ask/Say

If they come out as a different sexuality:

1. "Please don't hit on me."
2. "Are you sure you aren't attracted to men/women at all?"
3. "You might just be confused" or "It's just a phase"
4. "What do your parents think?"
5. "That means you'll be my gay best friend, right?"
6. "Hey, do you think that guy/girl is hot?"

If they come out as a different gender:

1. "Are you planning on having surgery?" or "Have you had surgery?"
2. "What's your real name?" or "What about your real name?"
3. "Why did you decide change genders?"
4. "What if you change your mind?"
5. "But being a boy/girl is so much better!"
6. "Which bathroom are you going to use?"



Why It Matters

14% of all adolescents say they have attempted suicide in the past. Out of this:

- LGB+ students are 3x as likely to attempt than straight students
- LGB+ youth with an unaccepting family are 8x as likely to attempt
- Every time an LGBTQ+ person is harassed physically or verbally, they become 2.5x as likely to hurt themselves
- 50.8% of all adolescent trans boys attempt
- 29.9% of all adolescent trans girls attempt
- 41.8% of all adolescents who don't identify with a gender attempt



Q&A