

**FOR EVERY GIRL WHO IS TIRED OF ACTING WEAK WHEN SHE IS STRONG, THERE IS A BOY TIRED OF APPEARING STRONG WHEN HE FEELS VULNERABLE. FOR EVERY BOY WHO IS BURDENED WITH THE CONSTANT EXPECTATION OF KNOWING EVERYTHING, THERE IS A GIRL TIRED OF PEOPLE NOT TRUSTING HER INTELLIGENCE. FOR EVERY GIRL WHO IS TIRED OF BEING CALLED OVER-SENSITIVE, THERE IS A BOY WHO FEARS TO BE GENTLE, TO WEEP. FOR EVERY BOY FOR WHOM COMPETITION IS THE ONLY WAY TO PROVE HIS MASCULINITY, THERE IS A GIRL WHO IS CALLED UNFEMININE WHEN SHE COMPETES. FOR EVERY GIRL WHO THROWS OUT HER E-Z-BAKE OVEN, THERE IS A BOY WHO WISHES TO FIND ONE. FOR EVERY BOY STRUGGLING NOT TO LET ADVERTISING DICTATE HIS DESIRES, THERE IS A GIRL FACING THE AD INDUSTRY'S ATTACKS ON HER SELF-ESTEEM. FOR EVERY GIRL WHO TAKES A STEP TOWARD HER LIBERATION, THERE IS A BOY WHO FINDS THE WAY TO FREEDOM A LITTLE EASIER.**



# Definitions

**Affirmed Female:** A male-to-female transgender person<sup>3</sup>

**Affirmed Male:** A female-to-male transgender person<sup>4</sup>

**Asexual:** A person who lacks sexual attraction or sexual desire.<sup>5</sup>

**Bisexual:** A person with an emotional and sexual attraction to both men and women. This attraction does not necessarily happen at the same time or to the same extent.<sup>6</sup>

**Cisgender:** Someone who has a gender identity that agrees with their biological sex.<sup>7</sup>

**Cross dresser:** Someone who dresses as a transvestite, drag queen, or drag king.<sup>8</sup>

**Cultural competence:** Learning information about a specific culture and applying that knowledge in a practical setting.<sup>9</sup>

**Cultural humility:** Personal engagement in self-awareness and self-reflection in order to recognize, understand, and respect different values, beliefs, and practices. To have cultural humility, one must be open to accepting cultural differences, learning from others about their cultures, and building relationships based on shared values.<sup>10</sup>

**Developmental disability:** A mental or physical impairment that happened before adulthood.<sup>11</sup>

**Gay:** Men with an emotional and sexual attraction to other men. This word can also represent both genders.<sup>12</sup>

**Gender bender/blender:** Someone who purposefully presents an ambiguous gender expression.<sup>13</sup>

**Gender dysphoria:** Long-term discomfort and distress with one's birth sex, gender, and anatomical body.<sup>14</sup>

**Gender neutral pronouns:** Pronouns that are non-gendered. They are most often used by transgender individuals.<sup>15</sup>

Subject	Object	Possessive Adjective	Possessive Pronoun	Reflexive
Ze	Zim	Hir	Hirs	Hirself
They	Them	Their	Theirs	Themselves

**Gender nonconforming:** a person who does not adhere to societal norms regarding dress and activities that are based on sex.<sup>16</sup>

**Genderqueer:** a person who feels hir gender expression or gender identity does not fit the one given to ze at birth, but does not want to transition to the opposite gender.<sup>17</sup>

**Heteronormativity:** The menial, everyday practices, norms, and institutions though which heterosexuality is privileged and valued as normal and natural.<sup>18</sup>

**Heterosexism:** “Institutionalized assumption that everyone is heterosexual and that heterosexuality is inherently superior to and preferable to” a queer sexual orientation.<sup>19</sup>

**Homeless:** Youth ages 18-24 who are without stable housing.<sup>20</sup>

**Homophobia:** Irrational fear or hatred of homosexuals or homosexual behavior.<sup>21</sup>

**Internal Working Model:** Internalized model of the self that is usually defined by attachments with primary caregivers and other close figures.<sup>22</sup>

**Intersex:** Someone who is born with external or internal genitalia that are not considered “standard” for males or females.<sup>23</sup>

**Lesbian:** A woman with an emotional and sexual attraction to other women.<sup>24</sup>

**Protective Factors:** Youth’s perceptions of the amount to which adults, teachers, parents, and friends care about them; they can also consist of other family supports or kin.<sup>25</sup>

**Queer:** All non-heterosexual and/or non-gender-conforming people.<sup>26</sup>

**Passing:** Indicating satisfactory performance.<sup>27</sup> *The male-to-female transgender youth passes as a young woman.*

**Runaway:** Youth under the age of 18 who are without stable housing.<sup>28</sup>

**Transphobia:** Irrational fear or hatred of transgender people or behavior that is not considered “standard” for males or females.<sup>29</sup>

**Transexual:** Someone who transitioned to living in the gender of the one other than that to which they were orginally born.<sup>30</sup>



# Statistics You Should Know About Gay & Transgender Students

**Reliable estimates indicate that between 4 and 10% of the population is gay.**

## **Academics**

- LGBT students at schools with comprehensive policies on bullying and harassment are much more likely to report harassment to school authorities who, in turn, were more likely to respond effectively.
- LGBT students are twice as likely to say that they were not planning on completing high school or going on to college.

## **Health**

- Gay teens are 8.4 times more likely to report having attempted suicide and 5.9 times more likely to report high levels of depression compared with peers from families that reported no or low levels of family rejection.
- LGBT youth who reported higher levels of family rejection during adolescence are three times more likely to use illegal drugs.

## **Family & Shelter**

- Half of gay males experience a negative parental reaction when they come out and in 26% of those cases the youth was thrown out of the home.
- Studies indicate that between 25% and 50% of homeless youth are LGBT and on the streets because of their sexual orientation or gender identity.
- LGBT youth are overrepresented in foster care, juvenile detention, and among homeless youth.

## **Harassment & Violence**

- Nearly a fifth of students are physically assaulted because of their sexual orientation and over a tenth because of their gender expression.
- About two-thirds of LGBT students reported having ever been sexually harassed (e.g., sexual remarks made, being touched inappropriately) in school in the past year.
- The average GPA for students who were frequently physically harassed because of their sexual orientation was half a grade lower than that of other students.

## Things Avoid Saying to an LGBTQ Youth

1. **That's so gay.**

What gay **DOES** mean: homosexual; having or showing a merry, lively mood; bright or showy; given to or abounding social pleasures (dictionary.com). What gay **DOES NOT** mean: stupid or slow.

2. **I'm sorry.**

Why should you apologize for a young person's sexual orientation or gender identity? It implies judgment and that there is something wrong with the youth. Would you apologize to someone about their race or ethnicity?

3. **Lifestyle.**

This is an antiquated term that implies that the youth has a choice in being LGBTQ, and that the choice is immoral. Regardless of your personal beliefs, your role is to support this youth however you can.

4. **Choice.**

See explanation above.

5. **I'm straight.**

If a young person comes out to you, it means they consider you a safe and trustworthy person. There's no better way to break that trust than by using this phrase – it implies that you think there's an emotional risk to your relationship because the youth is gay.

6. **Homosexual.**

Another antiquated term. Most youth use the term "gay," but be sure to ask what they prefer. In terms of what to call a homosexual relationship, most people prefer "same-sex relationship."

7. When asking about romantic relationships, **do not make heterosexual assumptions** about the sex of the person with whom the youth is romantically involved. Instead, use the term "partner" and follow the young person's lead with the language you use.

8. If the youth is transgender, **ask about their preferred name and pronouns**. And then use them! To the youth, this indicates that you respect who they are and that you are a safe person in their life.

*If you're completely at a loss, follow the young person's lead on language and ask open-ended questions. Because they are sharing such personal information with you, they'll be more likely to answer your questions and correct whatever you do or say that makes them uncomfortable.*

## HETEROSEXUAL QUESTIONNAIRE

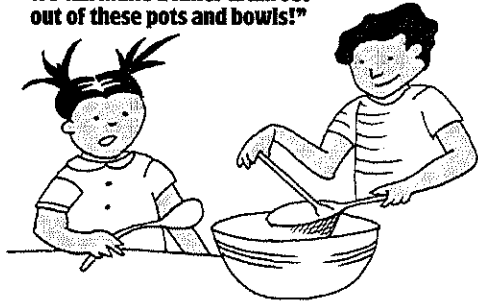
Please try to answer the questions as candidly as possible.

1. What do you think caused your heterosexuality?
2. When and how did you first decide you were a heterosexual?
3. Is it possible your heterosexuality is just a phase you may grow out of?
4. Could it be that your heterosexuality stems from a neurotic fear of others of the same sex?
5. If you've never slept with a person of the same sex, how can you be sure you wouldn't prefer that?
6. To whom have you disclosed your heterosexual tendencies? How did they react?
7. Why do heterosexuals feel compelled to seduce others into their lifestyle?
8. Why do you insist on flaunting your heterosexuality? Can't you just be what you are and keep it quiet?
9. A disproportionate majority of child molesters are heterosexual men. Do you consider it safe to expose children to heterosexual male teachers, pediatricians, priests, or scoutmasters?
10. With all the societal support for marriage, the divorce rate is spiraling. Why are there so few stable relationships among heterosexuals?
11. Why do heterosexuals place so much emphasis on sex?
12. Could you trust a heterosexual therapist to be objective? Don't you fear s/he might be inclined to influence you in the direction of her/his own leanings?
13. With the sexually segregated living conditions of military life, isn't heterosexuality incompatible with military service?
14. How can you enjoy an emotionally fulfilling experience with a person of the other sex when there are such vast differences between you? How can a man know what pleases a woman sexually or vice-versa?
15. Shouldn't you ask your far-out straight cohorts, like skinheads and born-again, to keep quiet? Wouldn't that improve your image?
16. Why are heterosexuals so promiscuous?
17. There seem to be very few happy heterosexuals. Techniques have been developed that might enable you to change if you really want to. After all, you never deliberately chose to be a heterosexual, did you? Have you considered aversion therapy or Heterosexuals Anonymous?

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<http://www.safeschoolsnc.com/HETEROSEXUALQUESTIONNAIRE.htm> (2 of 2)6/3/2005  
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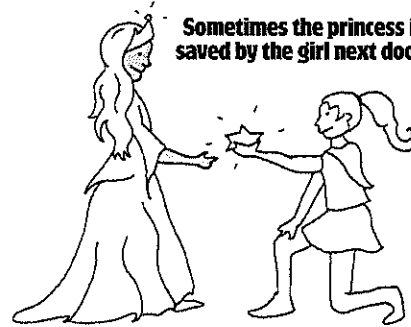
**"Calvin, baking is fun and all, but we can make a killer drum set out of these pots and bowls!"**



**"Grandpa, when we finish knitting, can we bake cookies?"**



**Sometimes the princess is saved by the girl next door.**



**Boys like hugs too.**



**"Enough about our forefathers, let's learn about some revolutionary women!"**



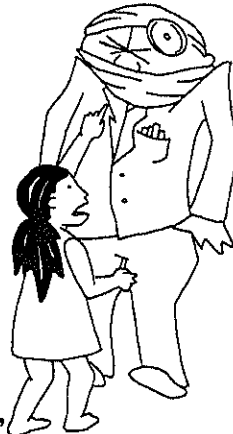
**"After we're done cleaning, let's go create a new standard of masculinity."**



**"What are you protesting?"**



**"Just because you looked up my skirt doesn't mean you know what gender I am!"**



**Olivia is getting ready to show the neighborhood how to fix a flat.**



**How do you define gender?**

**How many genders are there?**

**What would the world look like without gender?**

**In what ways do you feel confined or restricted by your assigned gender?**

**Was the gender assigned to you the one you feel most comfortable with?**

**What privileges do you or don't you have due to the gender you've been labeled?**

**Do you feel forced to act in certain ways because of gender?**

**What happens when you don't act in these ways?**

**How do we unlearn gender?**

For answers to these questions, think about them often during your daily life; approach situations with these ideas in mind, and be open to answers you might not have expected. When opportunities present themselves, try to implement the things you have learned from your observations—just go for it! Watch closely how your actions influence the world around you, and plan for what you might do better next time. For advanced studies, share your experiences with a group of friends of all sexes as you all try to deconstruct gender together—expressing and confessing, listening and forgiving, suggesting and absorbing, these things can foster extraordinary growth in a loving environment.

Inspired by and adapted from the girls will be boys will be girls will be... coloring book created by it and ink, who can be contacted at [calornegandria@fashsuggs.com](mailto:calornegandria@fashsuggs.com). Front illustration was redrawn from an original drawing in *Bombagirl* zine. More copies of this weird postcard, and a wide variety of other literature and propaganda, can be obtained from the Crimethink, Ex-Workers' Collective / PO Box 1963 / Olympia WA 98507-1963, or you can go to our website, [www.crimethink.com](http://www.crimethink.com), and make use of our extensive (free) reading library, downloadable posters, flyers and zines, and our online store and catalog.