Supporting students as they advocate and share their voice in the school community.
Presentation Goals:

- Advocacy skills
- Confidence in sharing their voice within the school community
- “Safe Space”
Who are We?

- Presenters introductions
- How we came to be a Gay Straight Alliance
  - Interest group for 2 years
  - Became an official club in 2011/2012 school year.
  - What does our weekly meeting look like?
Weekly Agenda

- WELCOME to the GSA!!!!!!!
- Round table share…Who are you? Why are you here (support, social, advocate, other?)
- Personal Stories
- Guest speakers
- Future events
- Wrap up
What we have learned over the last few years that encourages students to advocate for themselves:

- Small steps, patience, and persistence can mean big gains...
- Consistency is key to a successful GSA
  - Meeting dates, times, locations
- Layer the responsibility (Seniors advisors with underclassman as presidents or co-presidents)
- Provide Food😊
Just starting out?

Here are some things that will help you begin….

◦ Visit other GSA’s in your area
◦ Contact GLSEN and Affirmations for support and resources.
◦ Invite other GSA’s to an outing at a location in between your districts. (College and High Schools)
◦ Have outside of school bonding days
◦ Attend County wide social justice events.
◦ “Safe Space”
 Already a club?

Here are some ideas on how to keep your GSA strong….

- Set Goals for the club
- Create a mentorship between the upper classman and the lower classman.
- Invite staff from the school to visit the club.
- Keep a positive relationship with administration and school board.
- Do Fundraisers!!
- Do Volunteer work!!
How we started to get more popular in our school’s community
Bring Inspiration into the community...

- Accomplishments
- Setbacks
- How has it changed us personally?
- Questions?
Contact Information

Teachers

- Megan Taylor
  - mtaylor@novi.k12.mi.us

- Sheila Ebel
  - sebel@novi.k12.mi.us

Students

- Destiny Douglas
  - destdoug@gmail.com

- Micaela Dunbar
  - Mdunbar-gaynor@novischools.net