

Sexual & Gender Diversity in the English Language Arts Classroom

Workshop Sessions:

From *To Kill a Mockingbird* to *The Laramie Project*: A Journey in Diversity, Inclusion and Compassion

This session explores the process undertaken in an English 10 course considering class, gender and sexual discrimination and intolerance. The focus is on compassion and what it means to be human. As a collaborative learning community we trace our human history of discrimination with hope as to how we move forward into a more caring future. The final project asks students to research a social justice event and to write a play together as a research team, much like the process of *The Laramie Project*.

The Obvious and the Enigmatic: A Look at Gay Nuance in Literature

This presentation will include creative and practical ways in encourage students to seek out, understand, and ultimately use gay reference in their written and spoken assignments. A number of specific text examples will be used. They will be drawn from the following list: *The Merchant of Venice*, *Othello*, *The Glass Menagerie*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Cather in the Rye*, "The Scarlet Ibis", "The Cornet at Night", "Paul's Case", and "Horses of the Night". There will also be reference to a number of poems.

Words, Colours and Identities: Exploring arts-based content for GSA groups

In this workshop, we will discuss how creative programming works within a GSA (or LGBTQ+ youth group context) and examine activities that use creative media (ex. poetry, collage, drawing) to help youth explore identity. We will also discuss some basics around what GSA's are and how they vary from school to school. Hilary will share experiences based on her roles with Camp firefly and the GSA Network at the Calgary Sexual Health Centre.

ELAC Recommends: Best New Reads in LGBTQ Fiction

The English Language Arts Council has been working on preparing a "recommended LGBTQ novels" list for Alberta teachers in all divisions. Listen to some book talks and find out what new novels will get your students reading!

English 30-1 Redesign: LGBTQ Voices

This presentation will explore one teacher's adventure with course redesign by using a LGBTQ lens. A discussion of the process, the promotion of the course, the materials used, student engagement and the value of the project will be part of this session which will also include an opportunity for teachers to build and share resources.

Exploring Sexual Diversity in Fiction: Text as Windows and Mirrors in the High School Classroom

Karen Green and My Nguyen will explore task design for a novel study in the high school environment focusing on sexual and gender diversity. They will be focusing on Kathleen Winter's *Annabel*.