Out of the Closet - Strategies for an Inclusive Classroom
APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING
What am I?
What am I?
GROUND RULES
TERMINOLOGY

- Closeted or in the closet
- “Coming out"
- “Out of the closet”
- Outing
HE SAID....SHE SAID
STEREOTYPES

- Definition
  - 1st used

- Dangers/Harm
  - Threat
  - Self-fulfilling prophecy
  - Prejudice
  - Discrimination
  - Self-stereotyping
ABC’S OF DIVERSITY
WHY STAY IN THE CLOSET?

- Fear
- Protect future or current career
- Live in conservative culture
- Unending process
- Safety
**HARMFUL EFFECTS OF STAYING IN THE CLOSET**

- Denying who you are
- Leading a “double life”
- Ongoing stress
- Increasing risky behavior
- Impacting others
- Psychological risks
- Continuing stereotypes
CHANGING PERSPECTIVES
RISKS OF COMING OUT OF THE CLOSET

- Homophobia
- Treated differently
- Loss of friends
- Homelessness
- Asked personal questions
- Mixed reactions
- Loss of financial support
- Harassment/discrimination
  + Teasing/bullying
MICROAGRESSIONS
BENEFITS OF COMING OUT OF THE CLOSET

- No longer have to live a lie
- Meet other LGBT teens and participate in LGBT community life
- Get appropriate support if needed
- The more normal being gay becomes to the mainstream world.
- Lower stress hormone
LGBT- Inclusive curriculum benefits all students by:

- exposing them to more inclusive and accurate accounts of history
- helping them have better understandings of LGBT people and their historic contributions
- encouraging them to question stereotypes about LGBT people
- promoting acceptance

LGBT-inclusive curriculum benefits LGBT students by:

- validating their existence and experiences
- reinforcing their value and self-worth
- providing space for their voices
JUST BECAUSE
“All young people, regardless of sexual orientation or identity deserve a safe and supportive environment in which to achieve their full potential.”

Harvey Milk
1st openly gay elected official
BINGO

OPEN UP!
LGBT history coming out of the closet
RESOURCES

- http://glsen.org/educate/resources/curriculum
RESOURCES (CON’T.)

- http://www.algbtical.org
- http://glsen.org/educate/resources/curriculum
- http://closetproblems.tumblr.com/
- http://outservemag.com/2013/03/impacts-of-nondisclosure/
- www.ThinkB4YouSpeak.com
- http://changefromwithin.org/2012/03/01/10-keys-to-creating-an-inclusive-classroom-community-for-lgbtq-students
- http://www.pflagnyc.org/safeschools/statistics
- http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/01/130129074427.htm
- http://www.cdc.gov/lgbthealth/youth.htm
RESOURCES (CON’T.)