

Into the OUTSIDE

Education Resources

Conversations of Significance



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Duration 1-1.5 hours

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Duration 30-45 minutes

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Duration 30-45 minutes



Photo credits
Left: Jay & George
Right: Caitlin Kentish

Building a contemporary queer youth archive

A creative collective of young people aged 13-25 identifying as LGBTQ+ re-examines Brighton & Hove's rich LGBTQ+ history, creating a new archive of queer youth experiences. This heritage-learning project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund is delivered by Photoworks in collaboration with Brighton & Hove Libraries Services, the Mass Observation Archive and the East Sussex Record Office. Many other organisations from across the city are also involved including local schools, Brighton Museum & Art Gallery, Queer in Brighton and Allsorts Youth Project.

About these resources

Guidance, advice and ideas for professionals working with young people who want to raise awareness of and explore LGBTQ+ issues.

The activities are suitable for youth workers and teachers working in a range of settings with young people aged 13+. They can be used to support professionals running LGBTQ+ youth groups, delivery of the Citizenship or PSHE Curriculum in school, or for general youth work.

Each resource refers back to content on the Into the Outside website: www.intotheoutside.org.uk, making use of the rich collection of images, artwork, voices, creative writing and archive material.

Each resource includes a series of high-quality, creative activities using discussion, photography and creative writing.



Photo credit
Jay & George

Conversations of Significance

Here young people read the coming out stories written by young people from the Into the Outside Youth Collective. Then they write their own and share them with each other, allowing them to reflect on the experience of coming to terms with their own sexual identity, how it felt to be ready to share it with people close to them, and what actually happened – the good, the bad and the funny!



Photography

Portrait of an Emotion

Duration 1-1.5 hours

This activity is designed for settings where young people have already questioned and made decisions about their gender identity or sexual orientation. The purpose of the activity is to develop visual and emotional literacy.

Look at, Read, Listen to

- Ellyott Von Kurthy's artwork and poem www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/artwork/ellyott/
- Voices in this section www.intotheoutside.org.uk/tag/conversations-of-significance-coming-out+voices/
- Coming Out Stories www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/coming-out-stories/



Photo credit
Jay & George

1. Write a paragraph (or however much you would like to write) about what it was like the first time you talked to someone important in your life about your sexual orientation and/or gender identity. If you haven't had a conversation, or don't want to share one then you could write about why.
2. Ask each young person to share this with another in the group. Whilst sharing the stories, ask each person to write down words that represent how they felt:
 - Before they had this significant conversation (it could be just before or generally before the conversation took place)
 - Directly after they had this conversation
 - How they feel now
3. Ask each young person to create a series of three images (a triptych) – one image for each of the three moments that describes their feelings at that time. Metaphor and symbolism are good tools to use here. If there is a person (or people) in the images consider their poses and facial expression. What might different objects symbolise? Think about camera angles (try getting in close, shooting from above, or below), consider how each of the three images relate to each other, and make careful decisions about what you include or leave out of each image.
4. Once everyone has finished, print out or download the final images. Go through all the images together, discussing what the images signify.



Photography

Emotional Portraits

Duration 1-1.5 hours

This activity is designed to work in youth settings where young people have not necessarily questioned their gender identity or sexual orientation. The purpose of the activity is to create space to discuss the issues, understand others' experiences and develop awareness and empathy. This activity also develops visual literacy and emotional literacy.

Look at, Read, Listen to

- Ellyott Von Kurthy's artwork and poem www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/artwork/ellyott/
- Voices in this section www.intotheoutside.org.uk/tag/conversations-of-significance-coming-out+voices/
- Coming Out Stories www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/coming-out-stories/tag/belonging+voices/



Photo credit
Jay & George

1. Ask each person to write down five different emotions (e.g. relief or sadness) or states of being (e.g. confusion) that the young people in the examples might have experienced.
2. In pairs, ask each person to discuss what they have written with their partner.
3. Next, still in pairs, each person chooses three emotions that they would like to communicate through a photograph. Each pair works together to create these six images. Metaphor and symbolism are good tools to use here. If there is a person (or people) in the images consider their poses and facial expressions. What might different objects symbolise? Think about camera angles (try getting in close, shooting from above, or below), consider whether the images will relate to each other, and make careful decisions about what you include or leave out of each image.
4. Once everyone has finished, print out or download the final images. Go through all the images together, discussing what the images signify.



Discussion

Sharing Coming Out Stories

Duration 30-45 minutes

This activity is designed for settings where young people have already questioned and made decisions about their gender identity or sexual orientation. The purpose of the activity is to develop visual and emotional literacy.

Look at, Read, Listen to

- Ellyott Von Kurthy's artwork and poem
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/artwork/ellyott/
- Voices in this section
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/tag/conversations-of-significance-coming-out+voices/
- Coming Out Stories
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/coming-out-stories/



Photo credit
Zoltan Borovics

1. Write a short/long paragraph (however much you would like to write) about what it was like the first time you talked to someone important in your life about your sexual orientation and/or gender identity. If you haven't had a conversation, or don't want to share one then you could write about why.
2. Ask each young person to share this with another young person in the group. Whilst sharing the stories, ask each young person to write down words that represent how they felt:
 - Before they had this significant conversation (it could be just before or generally before the conversation took place)
 - Directly after they had this conversation
3. Conclude by asking young people to share how they feel now.



Creative Writing

A Letter of Support

Duration 30-45 minutes

This activity is designed for all, not only those who have come out and identify as LGBTQ+ but anyone willing to be an ally to LGBTQ+ people. The purpose of this activity is to develop empathy.

Read

- Into the Outside Coming Out Stories
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/coming-out-stories/

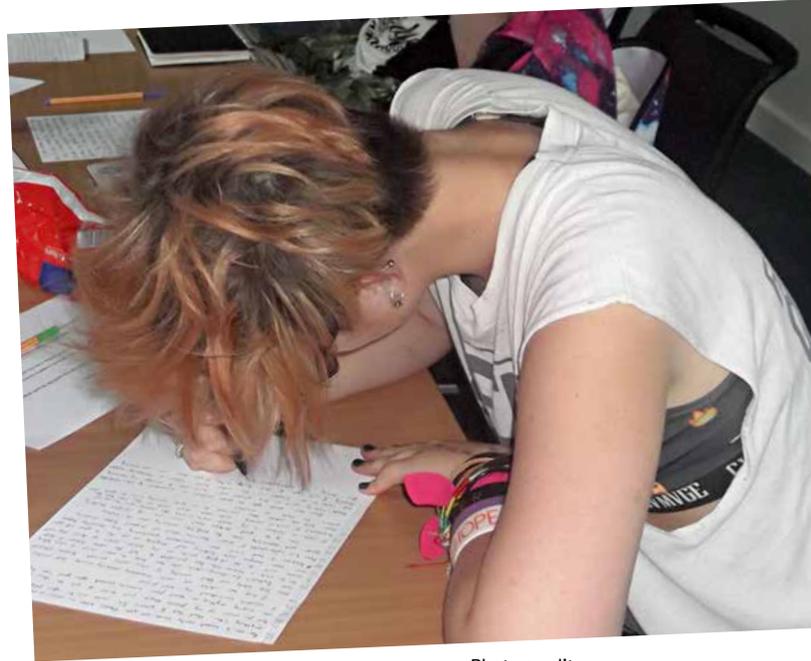


Photo credit
Jay & George

1. Ask the group to each pick one of these stories and write a letter of support in reply to it. Tell them what inspired you most about their story, if their story had any parallels to your own life experience, and end your letter with some words of encouragement. You could begin your letter: “Thank you for sharing your story. I want to tell you...”
2. Get the group into pairs and ask one of the pair to read the coming out story they picked to their partner. Their partner will then read the letter of support that you wrote back to you.
3. Ask the pairs to discuss how it felt to hear/read out the letter and how it might feel for the person who wrote the story to receive it.



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