

Into the OUTSIDE

Education Resources

Trans Experience



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Duration 1 hour

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Duration 45-60 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
Penny Lowe

Trans Experience

Trans Pride Brighton celebrated its fifth anniversary this year with an ever-growing crowd celebrating gender diversity and promoting visibility of the Trans community. National statistics identify trans children and young people as being particularly vulnerable, having to face higher levels of discrimination, and a range of daily challenges at school and beyond because so many people don't recognise or understand gender diversity. Gender identity is broader and more complex than just male and female. The term 'trans' is used as a term that encompasses a range of identities that exist alongside what are considered typical gender norms. Trans is used to describe transsexual and transgender individuals, and also to describe people who may identify as gender fluid, non binary or intersex.



Photography

Trans Experience

This activity is designed to work in more generic settings where young people have not necessarily openly sought support in questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation. You may be unaware of how young people are making sense of many aspects of their developing identities. Be mindful of supporting how the group approaches this activity. Only undertake the activity if it feels safe for the group as a whole to undertake.

The purpose of the activity is to create a safe space where young people can discuss the issues involved, understand others' experiences and develop awareness and empathy.

Look at, Read, Listen to

- Brighton Women's Aid photograph (Queer in Brighton)
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/queer-heritage/queer-heritage-in-brighton/queer-in-brighton/
- Stop The Clause March (Queer in Brighton)
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/queer-heritage/queer-heritage-in-brighton/queer-in-brighton/
- Alfie's artwork
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/artwork/nate/
- Willow's artwork
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/artwork/willow/



Photo credit
Jay & George

1. Choose a single photograph and create a narrative (story) around what you can, or can't see. What happened before/after the photograph was taken? Who are the characters? What's their story? What is the setting for the story?
2. Create a new photograph (or series of photographs) that tells your own version of what happened next.



Discussion

Understanding Trans Experience

Duration 1 hour

This activity is designed to work in more generic settings where young people have not necessarily openly sought support in questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation. You may be unaware of how young people are making sense of many aspects of their developing identities. Be mindful of supporting how the group approaches this activity. Only undertake the activity if it feels safe for the group as a whole to undertake.

The purpose of the activity is to create a safe space where young people can discuss the issues involved, understand others' experiences and develop awareness and empathy.

Look at, Read, Listen to

- Ellyott's photo grid and poem
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/artwork/ellyott/
- Colin's artwork Grandad
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/artwork/colin/
- Voices in this section
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/tag/trans-experience+voices/



Photo credit
Jay & George

1. You will need a large space for this activity. Place a sheet of paper that says AGREE at one end of the room and another that says DISAGREE at the other end of the room. Tell the group to imagine a line that runs between the two sheets of paper. Explain that the purpose of the activity is to stimulate discussion – sharing thoughts, opinions and understanding about trans experience in response to Ellyott's and Colin's work and the oral histories.
2. Ask the group to stand up. Read out the first statement. One by one, young people respond to the statement by standing somewhere on the imaginary line depending on how much they agree or disagree with the statement. As each person moves to their chosen position on the line ask them to say why they made that choice. Repeat for each statement.

Statements

- To identify as trans gender means that you identify with a different gender than the one you were assigned at birth.
- To identify as transgender is about identifying your sexual orientation.
- It is often hard for parents to accept that their children are trans or gender questioning.
- Students at school have lessons about what it is to identify as trans as part of their PSHE lessons.
- Everyone who is gay is trans gender too.
- It is a mental disorder to be trans gender and people should be counselled out of feeling this way.
- People only realise they are trans gender from the age of 18 onwards.
- People transition from male to female AND female to male.
- Everyone who identifies as trans has or wants to have surgery.
- Transphobia is about respecting people who are trans.



Creative Writing

Found Poem Collage

Duration 45-60 minutes

This activity is designed for all, not only those who identify as trans. The source material explores gender identity but the purpose of the activity is to experiment with using image and text together. A found poem is a poem created using text not intended to be poetry. Therefore, only the second poem created in this activity qualifies as a found poem.

Look at, Read, Listen to

- Carlos's artwork
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/artwork/carlos/
- James's artwork
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/artwork/james/
- Ellyott's poem Fear
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/artwork/ellyott/
- Ellyott's artwork
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/youth-collectives/into-the-outside/artwork/ellyott/
- Voices in this section
www.intotheoutside.org.uk/tag/trans-experience+voices/



Photo credit
Jay Jackson

1. Ask participants to pick one of Carlos, James or Ellyott's photos. Print out and cut up the lines of Ellyott's poem and pick 2-5 lines to stick directly onto their chosen photo. Think about how these lines respond to the photo. In pairs, ask the group to discuss their choices. Why this photo and why these lines?
2. Ask the group to pick another of Carlos, James or Ellyott's photos then read the voices in this section and pick one voice. Select a quote that has meaning for them and then write it out, cut it up and stick on the second photograph they selected. These lines were not written as poetry but the young people's job is to find the poetry in how lines are placed together and consider how these lines respond to the photograph.

