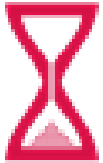


## FAST FACTS



15+  
People



45-60  
Minutes



\$0



Med-  
High Risk  
Level

Residence Life  
Residential Education  
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## LGBTQ Clue

(Adapted from New York University)

**Purpose of Activity:** This activity allows students to understand stereotypes associated with the LGBTQ community and the harm they manifest.

### Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

By actively participating in this activity, participants will:

- Recognize their own LGBTQ stereotypes/prejudices
- Engage in conversation related to LGBTQ issues
- Understand someone's story related to their sexual identity
- Reflect on society's role in the creation and maintenance of harmful stereotypes

### Materials Needed:

- Tablet/Namecard for contestants
- Large Paper Pad or Butcher Papers with markers and tape
- "LGBTQ Clue" Sign
- "Applause" Sign
- 5 or more panelists of varying sexual identities who are willing to share their story with an audience, including one who identifies as heterosexual

### Ground Rules:

- Be fully present and participate at your own comfort level – challenge by choice.
  - Follow up - What does it mean to be "fully present"?
  - Follow up - What does "challenge by choice" mean?
- Push yourself outside of your comfort zone – the most learning happens when we are a little bit uncomfortable.
- Listen respectfully, share air time, and encourage others to participate.
- It's ok for us all to be at different places with the things we discuss today.
- Show respect for one another's beliefs, values, and experiences.
- Respect and maintain privacy.

### Disclaimer:

- Please be conscious of the questions asked of the panelist. While the contestants can pass if they refuse to answer the question, it may be necessary for the host to note if a question is inappropriate (i.e. Do you date men?)

### Facilitation Guide:

- 1- There is a host and an assistant that will help to facilitate. The host will be the game show host. The assistant will be needed to take notes during the voting process and question-asking portion.



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### 2- Host Script:

**Host:** Now let's play L [dramatic pause!] G [dramatic pause!] B [dramatic pause!] T [dramatic pause!] ...Q [dramatic pause!]...CLUE! We'll begin the game with first impressions. This is your first chance to guess... the...heterosexual! Before us are \_#\_ lovely contestants: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5...

[Contestants from stage left to stage right raise their hand as their number is called, perhaps could wear a # sticker or pinny – like in gym class soccer]

**Host:** Now, if you are a smart audience member, you've already been observing the contestants closely for signs of queerness...because now, you'll vote on which contestant you think is tonight's heterosexual. Remember, YOU CAN ONLY VOTE ONCE, and there's only one person who identifies as heterosexual.

[Host walks behind contestant No. 1, holds hand above contestant's head a la Vanna White]

**Host:** Now, raise your hand high if you think contestant No. 1 is heterosexual. My assistant, NAME, will count the votes and post the results on our scoreboard.

[Host counts hands out loud one by one, and repeats the total, make sure to verify your account with the assistant's total. Moves to contestant 2-5]

**Host:** With \_#\_ of votes\_ votes, contestant \_#\_ is in the lead! Let's hear it for contestant \_#\_!!!

[Audience applause]

**Host:** Now let's move to Round 2, where you, the audience, will think of revealing, scintillating, and insightful questions to correctly guess...the...heterosexual. First, let's find out a bit more about our contestants today. Contestant No. 1, if you will please stand.

[Contestant number one stands up]

**Host:** Contestant No. 1 is \_first name\_, a \_freshman\_ in the \_school\_. \_First name\_ hails from \_hometown\_ and \_detail\_ to be announced\_. Welcome, first name !

[Host continues in same manner for all five folks. Encourage applause between each introduction, if time permits.]

**Host:** [after final contestant] Let's give a big round of applause for all of our contestants.



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[Audience applause]

**Host:** Now you've met them, let's get to know them. The audience members – that's you all – will come up with a question that each of our contestants will have a chance to answer. It can be anything, from "how old are you?" to "Where do you get your hair done?" Questions can be as wild or as personal as you want, but remember, contestants are allowed to pass if they don't want answer the question. And, most importantly, questions like "are you gay?" or "do you date women?" are off-limits...that would just give too much away, so don't even think about asking. My assistant will keep track of your questions to be used later on as we reveal our heterosexual individual. Any questions from the audience?

[Wait for audience response, clarify any questions]

**Host:** OK, let's begin. Who's got a question for our five contestants?

[If no one volunteers, prompt with "it can be anything, favorite food, state capital, cartoon show..."]

\*\*the contestants should make every attempt to limit answers to 30 seconds or less. Try to have definitive answers. You can answer "pass" on any question you don't feel comfortable answering. Speak in a loud clear voice for your entire answer. We don't want the people in the back to get bored because they can't hear contestant No. 3. Look at the audience while you're answering. Adopt the demeanor of someone who is really excited about being on the game show, maybe you'll even win a prize! Keep smiling!

**Host:** [after about 20-25 minutes of questions] OK, that's all the time we have for questions. It's time for the second vote! Now we get to see how many folks will change their vote. Think you have a better insight as to who is the heterosexual person now? More confused than before? Well, let's vote! Remember, you can vote only once!

[Host holds hand above contestant No. 1's head]

**Host:** Hands up if contestant No. 1 is the heterosexual.

[Host counts hands out loud one by one, and repeats the total, make sure to verify your account with the assistant's total. Moves to contestant 2-5]

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**Host:** OK, so we've got some new totals! \_Contestant #\_ got the most votes this time. And it looks like some members of the audience changed their vote. By a show of hands, about how many of you changed your vote? WHY? (lead into discussion)

### Discussion Questions:

- **Voting Patterns:**

- Does anyone want to talk about why they voted the way they did?
- If there is a large shift: "It looks as though many people changed their opinion on NAME, who wants to talk about why they changed their vote on NAME?"
- If someone has little to none: "Can someone talk about why NAME got so few votes?"
- NAME got the most votes, why is that?

- **About the Questions:**

- Were there any answers that really stuck for you? Why?
- If there was a unique question: This question was really interesting. Can anyone talk about what this question may have been trying to get at?
- Why might any or all of these questions be useful in guessing?

- **Stereotype Origin**

- Are there any stereotypes that you see emerging from the questions that were asked?
- Do some stereotypes contradict each? (How do gay men afford designer clothes, gym memberships, theatre tickets, etc. on a hairdresser or struggling actor's salary?)
- Where do these stereotypes come from? (Be sure to discuss the cultural/social/context)
  - Audience may mention stereotypes are based on gender, not sexual identity. If you do not want to get into a bigger discussion on gender, acknowledge the correlation and the differences and continue with this conversation.

- **Stereotype Effects**

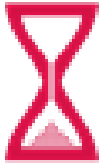
- Does coming out mean having at least some of these stereotypes associated with oneself? How does that affect someone questioning their sexuality?
- How else might these stereotypes affect an LGBTQ person?
- How does it affect LGBTQ people's friends, families, allies, etc.?
- How would it affect non-LGBTQ people in general?
- Do you or people you know modify your appearance, behavior or choices to avoid being perceived as LGBTQ? What are the consequences of doing or not doing so?
- Do you think media portrayals of LGBTQ people are based on stereotypes? Does it matter or is visibility more important?

- **Stereotype Purpose**

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- Why do people use stereotypes?
- Are any stereotypes positive? Are “positive” stereotypes harmful?

- **Societal Implications**

- In many cases, some stereotypes hold true—which might have a sociological explanation. What are some possible reasons: People who are coming out learned how to be “gay” from stereotypes? Marginalized culture affirming stereotypes to create culture/identity/unity/community? Safety? People with stereotypical traits forced to more closely examine their sexuality?
- If these stereotypes are predominantly white/western/American/middle-class, what effect might they have on same-sex loving people who are not white/western/American/middle-class?
- Some people in policy-making positions have never willingly met or spoken with anyone who is LGBTQ. How might these stereotypes inform public policy towards LGBTQ people?
- How do these stereotypes compare with stereotypes about other groups (people of color, Southerners, Arabs, left-handed people, Socialists, Fashion models, Republicans, etc.)? What functions do stereotypes serve?

**Reveal:**

- After the discussion, have the panelists stand. Then ask the one heterosexual person to remain standing. Ask the panelists to reveal their sexual identity. Ask the audience if there were any surprises. Ask the panelists if they were surprised by the votes. Take a few questions from the audience and end with some concluding statements that reflect the dialogue that took place. Some issues to hit include how stereotypes are rigid and place people in boxes and how stereotypes may lead to specific experiences.