

GLSEN Addendum to the *Stories of Us* Make-Your-Own-Film Resource

The *Promoting Positive Peer Relationships* Make-Your-Own-Film Resource was originally designed to cover a broad range of school bullying incidents. As there are commonly differences in the types, and social dynamics, of bullying by girls and boys, the resource included gender-based activities and the development of separate storylines for boys and girls.

This GLSEN Addendum outlines how to focus the resource on exploring the affects of bullying and harassment due to perceived or actual sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

In order to protect students who do not fall within the gender binary system, the Addendum provides guidance in amending specific aspects of the Make-Your-Own-Film Resource lessons to avoid any gender-specific references or activities. We encourage educators to challenge the way in which we approach gender specific activities and how that may alienate certain students from the process.

GRADE LEVEL

While the *Stories of Us P3R* resources and training are designed for use with middle and high school students, the *Stories of Us*–GLSEN initiative is recommended for **high school students only**.

Note: The Make-Your-Own-Film Resource is described as a "Middle School Resource" however it is equally applicable for high school students. Older students may associate the term "bullying" with middle school, but the behavior it describes is still relevant to their age group.

SUBJECT

- For the GLSEN version, any reference to "bullying" in researching and developing their stories and films should be taken to mean "bullying and harassment due to perceived or actual sexual orientation and gender identity". It may be necessary to occasionally remind students that this is the focus on the project.
- According to GLSEN's National School Climate Survey 2007, almost 90% of LGBT secondary school students nationally report being verbally harassed in school because of their sexual orientation, and almost 70% are harassed because of their gender expression. In order to explain the prevalence of this problem, we encourage educators to remind students of these statistics.
- Throughout the lessons, educators should remind students the importance of developing a school culture where everyone is respected regardless of any aspect of their identity or perceived identity. Educators should also be prepared to offer any guidance or resources to any student seeking support.

STORYLINES

- The Make-Your-Own-Film Resource calls for the development of two storylines – one boys’ and one girls’. For the GLSEN version, the students should simply develop two storylines based on the anti-LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transsexual) bullying incidents they identified in the first lessons. These stories will be referred to as “Story One” and “Story Two”.
- Therefore, in working through the lesson plans, wherever there is a reference to the “girls’ story” substitute “Story One”, and for the “boys’ story” substitute “Story Two”.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

- Ignore any references to “gender-based” when working in groups. All group activities should be mixed genders.
- Rather than the girls working on the girls’ story and the boys working on the boys’ story, the class should be divided in two, half of which will work on Story One and the other half on Story Two.
- Consequently any references to the girls (in relation to an activity) should be replaced with “the students working on Story One” and references to the boys should be replaced with “the students working on Story Two”.

LESSON PLAN CHARTS

- A number of the charts provided in the resource lesson plans are gender-specific. Rather than use these charts (either the copy-friendly versions from the Additional Resources section of the binder or the downloads from www.storiesofus.com/myo/docs), please **download all required charts from www.storiesofus.com/glsen/docs**.

LESSON ONE

For both the 10-Lesson Plan and 19-Lesson Plan:

- Explain that the film they will be using as an example throughout the project will differ slightly from the one they will develop. The example was designed to cover many different types of bullying, whereas they will be focused on bullying and harassment due to sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

FILM COMPETITION

- Throughout the Make-Your-Own-Film Resource there are references to the “Competition”. This refers to the *Stories of Us 21st Century Skills Bullying Prevention Film Competition* which is described on the website at: **www.storiesofus.com/competition**. Student films produced using this Addendum can be submitted for this competition. They will also qualify for presentation during the GLSEN No Name-Calling Week.
- The closing date for the *21st Century Skills Bullying Prevention Film Competition* is March 31, however to qualify for possible presentation during No Name-Calling Week, films produced using this Addendum must be submitted to the *21st Century Skills Bullying Prevention Film Competition* website no later than December 31.

- During No Name-Calling Week, *Stories of Us* will feature films that have been created by students using this Addendum. Students will be invited to view these films and then submit their own short films to the No Name-Calling Week Creative Expression Contest. More information will be available closer to week.