

Beyond Tolerance: Gays, Lesbians and Bisexuals on Campus

I. Awareness

This content area will focus on personal awareness of the participant and provide opportunities to take inventory of their own myths, missing information, stereotypes, etc. about people who are gay, lesbian or bisexual. Investigation of the cycle of socialization to identify how we learned homophobic attitudes and behaviors. Initial exploration of the connection of gender role stereotypes and homophobia/biphobia and how the participants' own actions and inactions contribute to creating and maintaining homophobic/biphobic/heterosexist environments.

Program: Common Arguments Against Homosexuality

Purpose: Intent is for dialogue between leader and participants

Description:

One of the most frequent expressed arguments against homosexuality is covered by the general expression: "Homosexuality is against the laws of nature. Specially, the homosexual critic makes these assertions:

1. Nature never intended persons of the same sex to have sexual activity together since the function of sex is reproduction, and reproduction can occur if heterosexual sex is consummated.
 - a. Homosexual behaviors appears throughout the world and has been in existence in the human race almost as long as there has been a human race.
 - b. Among the sexually active college students, it is probably fair to assume most are not trying to create a child every time they participate in sexual intercourse.

2. The shape of the organs and their functions determine normality. Structure and function are determined by nature and the structure and function of the sex organs are not to be changed, or perverted, by man.

"The following are also examples of laws of nature:"

 - a. Man cannot fly, hair grows, cancer exists and there is pain during childbirth
 - b. The argument can be made that if laws of nature are to remain unchanged, modern American culture is constantly breaking the law:

"If man was intended to fly would he not have been given wings?"

- a. Most Americans cut their hair and shave their beards. (It states in Leviticus 19:27; "Ye shall not round the corners of your heads, neither shalt they mar the corners of thy beard")

"If God created cancer on this earth, should we try as hard as we do to find a cure?"

- a. Less than one hundred years ago, there was an argument that God intended women to suffer pain in childbirth because of Eve's sin. What minister, priest, or layperson today, would protest the administration of sedatives during an especially painful delivery?

"A Proposition does not gain validity because of the number of people who accept it" John Dewey

***Adapted from Beyond Tolerance ACPA Roadshow Planning Committee, Vernon. A. Wall, 1993. In Defense of Homosexuality Male and Female: A Rational Evaluation of Social Prejudice, R.O.D. Benson, the Julian Press, Inc., Publishers, New York, 1995.*