

Discussion Guide for Teachers  
Interview with Hayley Clark  
Interviewer: Hannah Marchitell

At the time of this interview in April 2011, Hayley Clark was a seventeen-year-old senior at Potsdam High School in Potsdam, New York. After experiencing years of bullying, she and her girlfriend at the time decided that their high school needed a student support group for LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) students and their allies. She sought out an advisor on her own and did a lot of the work to create the Potsdam High School's Gay-Straight Alliance. She said that although this group is only in its first year, it has already been a rewarding experience for her.

Sometimes it can be challenging to break the ice to discuss LGBT issues with your students. However, education is key, and clearly you're aware of this since you are planning a lesson on this topic. The following are some suggested discussion guidelines:

- Listen and learn
  - Maintain confidentiality
  - Talk respectfully
  - No personal "put downs"
  - Everyone sets own boundaries for personal disclosure
  - Explore new ideas
  - Respect different experiences
  - Take turns
- (Students themselves may wish to add other guidelines.)

The following are questions to help spark a discussion following the video:

Do you see a lot of bullying around your school?

What do you think are some stereotypes that people have about LGBT people, and how can we change this?

What are the issues/ problems facing LGBT students at your school?

Would you feel comfortable having a GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance) at your school?

If your students have questions that you cannot answer, or if you have more questions yourself, the following websites may be useful:

- <http://www.glsen.org/> = Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network
- <http://www.itgetsbetter.org/> = a website intended to give hope to LGBT youth
- <http://www.thetrevorproject.org/> = the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to LGBT youth.