

## **DSA GSA's Awesome Tolerance Talk!!!**

### I. Introduction(5ish minutes)

Hi, we are all highschool DSA students, and we're here to talk about tolerance. Our names are...

What is tolerance? (If no one knows, "We're going to read you a story that demonstrates what we think tolerance means." If someone does say something, great, then we read the story anyways!)

### II. Sneetches(5ish minutes)

Now, here's what tolerance means: Accepting and respecting others and their differences, just like the Sneeches had to do, once they realized that stars weren't important.

### III. Hurtful Words(10ish minutes)

"We're going to pass out index cards and we want you to write down words that have hurt you or others in the past." (pass out index cards, give them time, write words on the board—lets think of something to entertain them while we write—questions?)

"These are all words that hurt people. Raise your hands if you've been hurt by any one of these words, this is why it's bad to say them, etc." (we can raise our hands for this part, too)

### IV. Take A Stand(except don't actually—30ish minutes?)

So, this is more or less complicated. We'll pass out the big worksheets, then little smaller sheets with the numbers on them, and tell them to fill out the little sheet first, then while they're writing their responses, we'll tally. Maybe we'll allow 2 minutes for each one?

1. You do not have to be thin to be pretty.
2. Inter-racial relationships can work.
3. Poor people are dumb.
4. Boys should be athletic and girls should wear make-up and shave their legs.
5. Muslims are terrorists.
6. Gay guys are girly and lesbians are manly.
7. It's not cool for black people to be smart.

Then we'll ask them to explain their responses, and try to lead them in the right direction. If no one talks, we can each take one of the issues, and explain our opinion of it.

V. (This is the back-up plan) If a conversation just doesn't take off, and we've still got a lot of time left, we can ask them a question: "If you hear people saying mean things to someone else, what can you do?" We'll have them brainstorm, and if they don't say anything, suggest ideas again...

VI. Contract(5ish minutes)—We want to make sure to save time for this, even if it means cutting other things a bit short.

“We’re hoping that what we’ve talked about today has inspired you to be more tolerant. Can we as a class come up with a statement about how we want to treat others?”

And then we write it on a big sheet of paper, and ask them to sign it on their way out of class if they want.

VII. P.S. Everyone is always welcome to Gay Straight Alliance meetings, in Ms. Mulvey’s room, Carr-something(??), from 4-5 on Thursdays! WOO-HOO!