

Sample First Meeting #1

Estimated Time: 1 hr 15 min

Preferred Gender Pronouns - 10 min

Pronouns are words we use to refer to ourselves and others, like "he" and "she". You cannot always tell by appearances whether a person prefers to be called 'he' or 'she'. In addition, some people prefer pronouns that are gender-neutral, or that do not specify the person's gender. Some gender-neutral pronouns are: 'xe' and 'ze'. For more information on gender-neutral pronouns, visit: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gender-neutral_pronoun.

Ask everyone to say their name, their preferred gender pronoun, and something else (What's their favorite lunch? Favorite movie?, etc.)

Some Things About Us - 15 min

Have everyone write down one interesting fact about themselves on a slip of paper. Then put all the papers in a hat, and draw them out randomly, one at a time. Have each person read one fact about someone else, and then have the group guess whose fact it is.

Why Are We Here - 30 min

Write the following phrases on separate slips of paper, or index cards. Then have the group place them in order of importance.

- to make friends
- to create a space where lgbtiqq-a youth can feel comfortable being out
- to change school policy so that schools are safer for youth and teachers
- to meet new people
- to fit in
- to have a comfortable place away from my home
- to change the world
- to have a voice
- to meet people who are different from me
- to learn new things
- to have fun
- to find support

Talk about why you chose the order you did. What would your GSA be like if you accomplished all of these goals? What other goals do people have that are not on this list? How can you increase the number of youth who participate in GSAs? Would that help you achieve your goals? Does the diversity of your GSA resemble the diversity of your school population? Would this help you fulfill your goals?

Check In - 5 min

Have everyone check in. Take a moment to say how everyone is feeling about the way the meeting is going so far. Has anyone felt uncomfortable? Why or why not?

Discuss Your Next Meeting - 10 min

Decide when it will be, and who will be running it. Brainstorm some ideas about what you want it to be. Write them down. Collect contact info from everybody, so that you can be in touch by phone and email.

Discuss the Future - 4 min

Take a few minutes to think together about things you might want to do in the coming months, or next year. What is most important? Activism? Fun? Friendship? Something else?

Congratulate Yourselves! 1 min

You now have a GSA and are leading one of the most powerful movements in history! Go you!



www.iNSIDEoUT180.org

iNSIDEoUT is a youth-founded, youth-led organisation that provides leadership opportunities & a safe space for Triangle-area LGBTQISA-queer youth, both in & out of schools. By providing educational-, social-, & activism-oriented programs, iNSIDEoUT strives to form & strengthen GSAs while connecting & empowering youth, seeking to expand beyond the Triangle. iNSIDEoUT encourages you to become a part of our family & community.