



## What Do You Say When They Say, “That’s So Gay!?”: How to Make Your School a Safe Environment

**Designed For: Professionals**

**“Faggot”...“Dyke”...“That’s so gay”...  
are terms commonly heard in America’s hallways**

“I don’t like it but I don’t know what to say,” is a common response by teachers. Discrimination based on sexual orientation and confusion around gender-identity continues to have a negative impact on gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and questioning (LGBTQ) teens. Statistics show that:

- 53% of youth have heard teachers use homophobic comments
- 40% of gay youth report schoolwork being negatively affected by conflicts around sexual orientation
- 28% of gay youth drop out of school

Unlike other minority groups who can turn to their families for support, LGBTQ teens often cannot confide in their parents, friends, or the church, creating a profound sense of isolation and self-loathing.

This in-service uses large and small group activities to help educators and other professionals learn how to respond to homophobic behavior in school and to work towards a safe and inclusive community. Participants will learn strategies to counteract bias and reduce bullying, as well as ideas for developing and maintaining a Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA) or Diversity Club.

**Our goals are to help professionals:**

- Develop a repertoire of age-appropriate and responsible ways to respond to anti-LGBTQ comments and behaviors
- Identify the negative effects on student learning when a classroom or school environment fails to adequately address anti-LGBTQ bias
- Learn equitable and inclusive classroom strategies that acknowledge and affirm all members of the school community

**Average Length of In-Service: 90 minutes, Half-Day, Whole Day**

**Recommended Number of Participants: 20-100**

**Cost of Program: Contact Us**