SPRINGBOARDS FOR DISCUSSING LGBTQ+ ISSUES

This page contains springboards for you to dive into a discussion of LGBTQ+ issues related to sexual orientation, gender identity, and prejudice. Feel free to discuss the questions in any order or create springboards of your own. The key thing is not to answer all the questions but to have a good discussion in which everyone participates.

1. When it comes to LGBTQ+ issues, how would you define the terms "sexual orientation," "gender identity," "bisexual," "transgender," and "intersex"?

2. Can gay people change their sexual orientation if they want to? And if so, can straight people do the same?

3. Why do researchers generally recommend using the term "sexual orientation" rather than "sexual preference"?

4. Antigay prejudice is sometimes justified by arguing that gay people can choose not to be gay, but antisemitism is rarely justified by saying that Jews can choose not to be Jewish. Why does choice matter in one case and not the other?

5. Should discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity be outlawed to the same extent as discrimination based on race and sex? Why or why not?

6. Do gendered bathrooms, dressing rooms, and athletic locker rooms discriminate against nonbinary people?

7. Should transgender athletes be allowed to compete in the gender category of their choice? Why or why not?

8. In light of the fact that millions of people are born intersex, is it prejudiced to behave as though "female" and "male" are the only two sex categories?

9. If a formerly straight person has a same-sex sexual experience, would you describe that person as straight, gay, or bisexual? What about two experiences or three or four or five? At what point would you consider a formerly straight person to be gay or bisexual, and to what extent does the answer depend on how the person self-identifies, regardless of sexual experiences?

10. If a male-to-female transgender person were to undergo gender reassignment surgery, become female, and later marry a male, would you regard such a marriage as gay, straight, or something else?

11. Is it heterosexist for gynecologists to ask a new patient whether she uses birth control during sex? Do you consider yourself to be heterosexist, and if so, in what way?

12. How have the LGBTQ+ community and movement improved the life of straight people? Conversely, how do heterosexism and homophobia harm straight people?

[From UnderstandingPrejudice.org]