



Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

1.18 Interrupting Lesbian- and Gay-Baiting

Objectives

Develop an understanding of the factors involved in lesbian- and gay-baiting.

Explore feelings and attitudes around the cycle of oppression involved.

Discuss ways to break the cycle.

Materials needed

Lesbian Baiting and Gay Baiting: How Homophobia is a Tool of Sexism by Mary McClintock, M.Ed.

Copies of the handout

Time needed

Ten to twenty minutes

Instructor directions

Supply your students with a copy of Mary McClintock's article.

Have them read it before class and come prepared to discuss in small groups.

Ask them to describe the roles of the participants in the situations described by Mary McClintock, analyze the process of oppression that occurs in acts of "lesbian/gay-baiting," and identify points in the process at which the oppressive behaviors can be interrupted.

Variation

Have your students follow the given directions, describing situations they experienced that were motivated by racial intolerance.



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Directions

Describe the roles of the participants in the situations described by Mary McClintock.

Analyze the process of oppression that occurs in acts of “lesbian/gay-baiting.”

Identify points in the process at which the oppressive behaviors can be interrupted.

Answer the following questions:

Have you been involved in situations that could be described as “lesbian- or gay-baiting”?

Who were the participants, and how did they behave? What stereotypical beliefs were expressed?

How did you respond?

Was the process of oppressive behavior interrupted by your response?

How did you feel after the interaction was over?

Based on the suggestions in McClintock's article, would you do anything differently in future situations? If so, what?

Variation

Following the directions above, describe a situation you experienced that was motivated by racial intolerance.