Tips and Tools for Teaching K-12 LGBTQ-Inclusive History

OAH 2023

Co-Sponsored by:

OAH Committee on the Status of LGBTQ Historians and Histories
OAH Graduate Student Committee
OAH Committee on Teaching

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Founded in 1952 as ONE Inc., the publisher of ONE Magazine, ONE Archives Foundation is the oldest active LGBTQ organization in the United States. In 2010, ONE Archives Foundation deposited its vast collection of LGBTQ historical materials with the USC Libraries. Today, the organization is dedicated to promoting this important resource through diverse activities including educational initiatives, fundraising, and range of public programs.

PURPOSE
Make the history, contemporary experience and humanity of the LGBTQ community an integral part of the greater social whole.

VISION
Be an activist cultural institution and leading producer of historical and contemporary LGBTQ stories reaching broad audiences through media, exhibitions, symposiums, publications, outreach and educational programs.

MISSION
Tell stories that connect history and contemporary culture to affect social change today. We cultivate the personal and communal courage found in LGBTQ history to empower the contemporary queer experience, promote social justice and equality for all.
About Me

Trevor Ladner, Education Programs Manager

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- Social studies teacher & GSA sponsor before joining OAF
- Credentialed in CA and MA
- Master’s in Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- B.A. in Sociology and African American Studies, Harvard College
- Proud Gen Z and Mississippi Gulf Coast native
Education Initiatives

● Inspire transformative stories of LGBTQ history to broaden the perspectives of educators, students, and researchers

● Stakeholder in FAIR Education Act since 2017
  ○ [lgbtqhistory.org](http://lgbtqhistory.org) with Our Family Coalition

● Programs and Resources:
  ○ LGBTQ History Lesson Plans & Panels
  ○ Professional Development for Educators
  ○ Research Fellowships for Students
LGBTQ History Lesson Plans

AIDS & HIV ACTIVISM
Help students understand why and how activists responded to the AIDS crisis in the 1980s.

AUDRE LORDE
Analyze Audre Lorde’s writings to explore intersectionality, power and privilege.

BAYARD RUSTIN
Learn about Bayard Rustin’s identity and how it shaped his beliefs and actions.

BLACK CAT RIOTS
Explore the causes of the Black Cat Riots in Los Angeles’ Silverlake neighborhood.

DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS
Assess how the Daughters of Bilitis’ The Ladder magazine supported lesbians in the 1950s.

FAIR EDUCATION ACT
Explore students’ rights to LGBTQ representation in the classroom as set forth in the FAIR Education Act.

HARVEY MILK
Investigate how Harvey Milk’s leadership and the Briggs Initiative united marginalized groups.

HOLLYWOOD, 1920S–1930S
Were LGBT Americans welcome in Hollywood during the 1920s and 1930s?
LGBTQ History Lesson Plans

**LGBTQ CIVIL RIGHTS**
Examine how the movement for LGBTQ rights were part of the broader Civil Rights Movement.

**LGBTQ EQUALITY, 1950–1970**
Interrogate how the LGBTQ movement went from assimilation to coming out from 1950–1970.

**MAGNUS HIRSCHFELD**
Explore how Magnus Hirschfeld advocated for LGBTQ people in Germany and abroad.

**URBANIZATION & GENDER**
Evaluate how urbanization challenged gender role in the late nineteenth century.

**VIETNAM WAR**
Explore how sexuality and social conditions impacted LGBTQ Americans during the Vietnam War.

**WORLD WAR I**
Evaluate the role female impersonation played in various WWI soldier camp performances.

**LGBTQ FREEDOM OF SPEECH**
Explore how One, Inc. v. Olesen expanded freedom of speech for the LGBTQ community.

**AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION**
Explore how the Biltmore Invasion led to the de-pathologization of homosexuality.
Snapshot: *Harvey Milk + Briggs Initiative*

- **Inquiry:** How did Harvey Milk and the Briggs Initiative unite marginalized groups?

- **Standards:**
  - **HSS-11.11:** Students analyze the major social problems and domestic policy issues in contemporary American society.
  - **HSS-12.2:** Students evaluate, and take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.
  - **CCSS.11-12:** cite evidence, provide summary, determine central ideas, evaluate texts, delineate arguments, write informative texts

- **Time:** 90-120 minutes

This lesson plan was created by Christopher Lewis, Mountain View High School, as part of our 2018 teacher symposium.
Part 1: Students will analyze the purpose of the Briggs Initiative (Prop 6), which was on the California general election ballot in 1978, by delineating arguments in primary sources. The referendum sought to ban gays and lesbians, and potentially their supporters, from working in California’s public schools.
**Part 2:** Students will evaluate voices of those opposed to the initiative by evaluating primary sources, including posters, flyers, and political cartoons. Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official, was a key voice of opposition. Other groups— including African Americans, feminists, and unionists— also opposed the initiative.
“The young gay people who are coming out and hear Anita Bryant on television and her story. The only thing they have to look forward to is hope. And you have to give them hope. Hope for a better world, hope for a better tomorrow, hope for a better place to come to if the pressures at home are too great… Without hope, not only gays, but the blacks, the seniors, the handicapped, the us'es, the us'es will give up. And if you help elect to the central committee and other offices, more gay people, that gives a green light to all who feel disenfranchised… It means hope to a nation that has given up, because if a gay person makes it, the doors are open to everyone.”

Part 3: Students will closely read Harvey Milk’s speech on hope given after the defeat of Prop 6 on June 25, 1978.
Snapshot: Harvey Milk + Briggs Initiative

Assessment: Students will write a response to the essential question, citing evidence from the documents read during the lesson. Students should focus on identifying arguments used for and against the Briggs Initiative and address how Harvey Milk highlighted the importance of collective action and hope.

Extension: Students can evaluate current policies that are being enacted or proposed to restrict liberties of LGBTQ educators and students and the responses of different communities to these policies.
Personal Teaching Tip

Current events are an engaging, relevant way to bring LGBTQ issues into the classroom.

- NewsELA (articles adapted for diff. lexiles + includes standards-aligned assessments)

Structure + functions of Congress

- House debate on Equality Act

SCOTUS & Constitutional Rights

- Overturning of Roe v. Wade - right to privacy
- 303 Creative LLC v. Elenis (2022) - freedom of speech/expression + equal protection
History Panels

OAF is the leading provider of high quality and visually engaging History Panels that educate and enthuse various audiences about LGBTQ history and culture.

Themes include:

- LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement
- Transgender History
- Legendary Lesbians
- AIDS Timeline
- … and more!

These are a great resource for educators to implement in classroom activities (i.e. gallery walks), or for use in your school-wide LGBTQ History Month or Pride Month programming. They are available on a sliding scale.
OAF offers free workshops on teaching LGBTQ history in K-12 classrooms in collaboration with our community partners. Activities and digital resources, aligned with the California FAIR Education Act and the new California History-Social Science Framework, are organized for participants to use following each workshop and webinar.

These opportunities include:

- On-site school/district trainings
- Teacher webinars
- Summer symposiums
Research Fellowships for Youth

**Youspeak Radio** is an intergenerational audio story project led by LGBTQ youth. Participants learn about storytelling, audio documentary, and oral history in addition to LGBTQ+ history.

**Youth Ambassadors for Queer History** is a hands-on research program for high school students from across Los Angeles. For an academic semester, students research and create LGBTQ history projects while participating in presentations, discussions, field trips, and more.
Connect with Us!

Visit onearchives.org to access teaching resources or to learn more about our programs.

For inquiries related to our education initiatives, I can be reached tladner@onearchives.org.