

Talking the Talk

One simple yet important way to be an ally is to use LGBT-related terminology accurately and respectfully. The best way to ensure that you are using the proper terminology when referring to an individual is to find out the terminology they themselves prefer.

Language has a huge impact on the way we see others and ourselves, and yet, language is constantly changing. That is why it is important to familiarize yourself and keep up-to-date with LGBT-related terms and concepts. Begin by completing the “Terminology Match-Up” on the next page.

“One of the greatest challenges we face on a daily basis is not what the students do to one another. In fact, sadly, it is what is said by some of my colleagues about the students”

— Alternative High School Educator, Ohio

Terminology Match-Up

How much LGBT-related terminology do you already know? On the left is a set of LGBT-related terms, on the right are definitions of these terms. To test your knowledge, select the matching definition for each term. Then check the *Glossary of LGBT-Related Terms* at the end of this Guide for more terms and definitions.

ASK YOURSELF

- ▼ Which terms were you most familiar with? Which were you unfamiliar with?
- ▼ What terms are you most comfortable using? Are there any terms you are uncomfortable using? Why?

ANSWER KEY: 1=B, 2=F, 3=J, 4=E, 5=D, 6=I, 7=K, 8=M, 9=G, 10=A, 11=C, 12=H, 13=L

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Sexual Orientation | A The irrational fear or aversion to transgender people of those who are perceived to break or blur societal norms regarding gender identity or gender expression. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Lesbian | B The inner feelings of who we are attracted or oriented to sexually and emotionally. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Gender Identity | C Refers to an irrational fear of or aversion to homosexuality or lesbian, gay or bisexual people. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Gender Expression | D An identity of a person whose gender identity is not aligned with their sex assigned at birth and/or whose gender expression is non-conforming. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Transgender | E An individual's physical characteristics, behaviors and presentation that are linked, traditionally, to either masculinity or femininity, such as: appearance, dress, mannerisms, speech patterns and social interactions. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Gay | F A sexual orientation and/or identity of a person who is female-identified and who is sexually and emotionally attracted to some other females. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Gender Non-Conforming | G A sexual orientation and/or identity of a person who is sexually and emotionally attracted to some males and some females. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Androgynous | H Applies to attitudes, bias and discrimination in favor of heterosexual sexuality and relationships. It includes the presumption that everyone is heterosexual or that male/female attractions and relationships are the norm and therefore superior. It is the belief that everyone is or should be straight. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Bisexual | I A sexual orientation and/or identity of a person who is sexually and emotionally attracted to some members of the same sex. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Transphobia | J How we identify ourselves in terms of our gender. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 11. Homophobia | K An identity of a person who has gender characteristics and/or behaviors that do not conform to traditional or societal gender expectations. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 12. Heterosexism | L An umbrella term used to describe a sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression that does not conform to heteronormative society. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Queer | M Having the characteristics or nature of both maleness and femaleness; neither specifically feminine nor masculine. |