



**Boston**

Gay, Lesbian and Straight  
Education Network  
31 Heath Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130  
tel: (617) 536-9669  
fax: (617) 238-2467  
e-mail: [glsenboston@glsenboston.org](mailto:glsenboston@glsenboston.org)  
web: [www.glsenboston.org](http://www.glsenboston.org)

## **What Students Can Do To Make Schools Safe For Lesbians, Gays, Bisexuals, and Transgendered People...**

### **Low Risk (Behaviors/Activities)**

1. Make your language inclusive, e.g., use partner, significant other, family unit, etc., in place of or in addition to boyfriend, girlfriend, wife, husband, etc. – in conversations and in papers, memos, etc...
2. Check that the school has policies in place which include lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, e.g., admissions, hiring, benefits, health care, housing, etc...
3. Don't assume everyone is heterosexual. Assume there are lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people in all classes, sports, meetings, daily life, etc...
4. Don't assume someone who "looks gay" or "looks butch" is therefore gay or lesbian.
5. Don't assume "macho males" or "feminine females" are straight.

### **Some Risk**

6. Support the creation or ongoing activities of a Gay/Straight Alliance.
7. Ask questions about homosexuality, bisexuality, and transgenderism in class or in conversation with others.
8. Interrupt anti-gay jokes, comments, actions, behavior, etc...
9. Show lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender positive movies, videos, etc...

### **Greater Risk**

10. Wear a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender positive button or T-shirt occasionally, e.g., "Straight but not narrow," "I support gay and lesbian rights," or a pink triangle.
11. Write an article about this presentation for the school newspaper, alumni news, etc...
12. Report on/speak about this presentation in class and in other organizations in which you participate.
13. Ask for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender speakers for assemblies, classes, evening programs, workshops, alumni meetings, and other events.