



Fatima needs advice

Students are asked to give advice to Fatima, who questions her same-sex feelings and wonders about her loyalty to peers and family.

Objective

Students learn to explore their own attitudes towards sexual orientation, especially when they would be confronted personally with questioning peers.

Indications of impact

The students show willingness to support LGBTI-students and reflect empathically on consequences of different ways to do that.

Duration

30-45 minutes

Level

Ages 13-16
Intermediate level

Materials

- Possibly handout of the story

Version

Developed by GALE,
version 4-9-2019

Preparation

You can copy Fatima's story on a hand-out or on a PowerPoint slide.

Implementation

Step 1: (5'; instruction) Tell the students about the Fatima-case:

Fatima is 15 and is having a difficult time. She doesn't enjoy hanging out with boys like her friends do. She prefers the company of her female friends much more. But her friends are increasingly dating boys, they are all boy-crazy. She read in a magazine there are women out there who feel attracted to other women. They are called lesbians. Now she wonders if she may be lesbian. She is confused because she likes boys but doesn't feel like going out with them yet and certainly doesn't want to sleep with them. She feels much more intimate and comfortable with girls. She would like to hear what peers think of her situation.

Step 2: (15'; letter-writing) Ask students to write a good advice letter to Fatima.

As the letter is personal, it should contain the following aspects: your personal view, your own experience and a supportive advice. While the students write their letter, walk around and assist if necessary.

Step 3: (15'; discussion) Ask who would like to read his or her good advice letter to Fatima (you can also read out loud the texts yourself or instead of reading let students freely talk about their advice to Fatima). While the students talk, write keywords on the blackboard.

Step 4: (10'; debriefing) Use the comments written on the board for discussion and ask students:

- Which advice is most useful, why?
- Which advice is not very appropriate or effective?
- How did you decide on your advice?
- How will Fatima feel about this advice?
- If you got this advice yourself how would you feel?
- What is the role of Fatima's family, religion/culture?
- If Fatima would be your friend, what would you do?

Transfer to practice

Come back to this exercise when a LGBTI-student needs support by peers.