B13: "I wonder" exercise

Type of Exercise: written assignment
Level: basic
Length of time: 1-2 hours
Resources needed: none

Instructions: Ask students to choose a social setting where they are to bring up the topic of LGBTQ issues. For example, they could go out for coffee, have lunch, or visit a family member, and bring up the topic in conversation in a public space.

• Suggest that the student say something like, “We are learning about lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender issues in school, and it’s been very interesting.” The student could be prompted to wait for the other person’s reaction before proceeding.

• Ask the student to analyze the subsequent conversation, noting changes in tone or voice, their own comfort level, the comfort level of the other person, the comfort level of those who might have overheard the conversation.

• Have them report about what was said, how it was said, how they felt through the conversation, and what they were aware of as the discussion unfolded. Did they notice a change in tone, or voice when they said the words lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender? What was comfortable or uncomfortable about the interaction?