

LGBT Situation Exercise

Directions: Clear a room so that you have some space.

Participants must imagine the room is a giant opinion scale with one end labelled very safe, the middle unsure, and the other end of the room very unsafe.

Ask participants to imagine how safe they think it is for typical LGBT college student to be out in a variety of settings.

Ask for volunteers to tell you how they happened to stand where they are (avoid saying "why" as this can be experienced as judgmental).

Summarize their comments, if necessary, so that everyone in the room can hear them. Try to get participants to share from various points on the continuum -- even the neutral participants

Settings include:

- On campus
- At a gay or lesbian bar
- At the gym
- At a cinema with their partner
- Walking down a corridor to their class
- At a Pride parade
- At a party
- In a classroom
- At a football game
- At a restaurant
- At a family event
- Hanging out with friends
- At work
- As a new student at induction
- Visiting their doctor

Discussion:

- Ask participants to discuss how they felt moving their locations for each settings.
- How might reactions differ for people from ethnic minorities?
- How might reactions differ for transgender people?
- What have participants learned about being LGBT in common settings or areas?