

Queer Newark Conversation Starters

Queer Newark Conversation Starters are a list of basic questions about LGBTQ+ topics that can be adapted for any grade level. They can help teachers gauge their students' existing knowledge on LGBTQ+ topics and serve as starting points for further lessons. Each conversation starter is paired with suggested resources from Queer Newark that cover this topic if your students are interested and want to dig deeper.

LGBTQ+ Identity

- What does LGBTQ+ stand for and what do the terms in the acronym mean? What other terms for LGBTQ+ identity aren't included in the acronym and what do they mean? Why are identity labels important to some people and not to others? Why is it important to use people's preferred terms and respectful language for LGBTQ+ people?
 - Oral histories: [Alicia Health-Toby](#), [June Dowell-Burton](#), [Yvonne Hernandez](#)
 - Podcast: "[On Queer Loss: Interview with Aleix Martinez in Memory of Ray Rivas](#)"
- What does it mean for an LGBTQ+ person to be "in the closet" and what does it mean for an LGBTQ+ person to "come out"? What factors might influence a person to stay in the closet versus come out? How might being in the closet or being out impact an LGBTQ+ person's day to day life?
 - Oral histories: [Douglas Says](#), [James Credle](#), [Patreese Johnson](#)
 - Podcast: "[Interview with Aaron Frazier](#)"

LGBTQ+ Acceptance

- How are LGBTQ+ people treated in our society? In what ways do LGBTQ+ people face discrimination? What changes have occurred over time in terms of LGBTQ+ discrimination and acceptance?
 - Oral histories: [William Courson](#), [Saundra Toby-Health](#), [Juliana Moraes](#)
 - Podcast: "[Newark Pride with Sharronda 'Love' Wheeler](#)"
- Why is it important for schools to be safe and welcoming for LGBTQ+ people? Do you think our school is a safe and accepting place for LGBTQ+ people and why or why not? How can our school become better for LGBTQ+ people?
 - Oral histories: Alisha Day, [Darnell Moore](#), [Andrew Moreira](#)
 - Podcast: "[Remembering James Credle](#)"

Learning About LGBTQ+ Topics

- What have you learned about LGBTQ+ topics in the past? Have you learned that information from school or other sources? Why do you think you've learned that information in the ways that you have?
- Why is it important to learn about LGBTQ+ topics? How can you find accurate information about LGBTQ+ topics? Why are primary sources important when learning about LGBTQ+ topics?
 - Oral histories: [Bryan Epps](#), [Darnell Moore](#), [Gail Malmgreen](#)
 - Podcast: "[Tips for Doing Oral History with Timothy Stewart-Winter](#)"