

# Tips and Tools for Teaching K-12 LGBTQ-Inclusive History

## OAH 2023

Co-Sponsored by:

OAH Committee on the Status of LGBTQ Historians and Histories  
OAH Graduate Student Committee  
OAH Committee on Teaching

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Founded in 1952 as ONE Inc., the publisher of *ONE Magazine*, ONE Archives Foundation is the **oldest active LGBTQ organization in the United States**. In 2010, ONE Archives Foundation deposited its vast collection of LGBTQ historical materials with the USC Libraries. Today, the organization is dedicated to promoting this important resource through diverse activities including **educational initiatives, fundraising, and range of public programs**.



## PURPOSE

Make the history, contemporary experience and humanity of the LGBTQ community an integral part of the greater social whole.



## VISION

Be an activist cultural institution and leading producer of historical and contemporary LGBTQ stories reaching broad audiences through media, exhibitions, symposiums, publications, outreach and educational programs.



## MISSION

Tell stories that connect history and contemporary culture to affect social change today. We cultivate the personal and communal courage found in LGBTQ history to empower the contemporary queer experience, promote social justice and equality for all.

# About Me

**Trevor Ladner**, Education Programs Manager

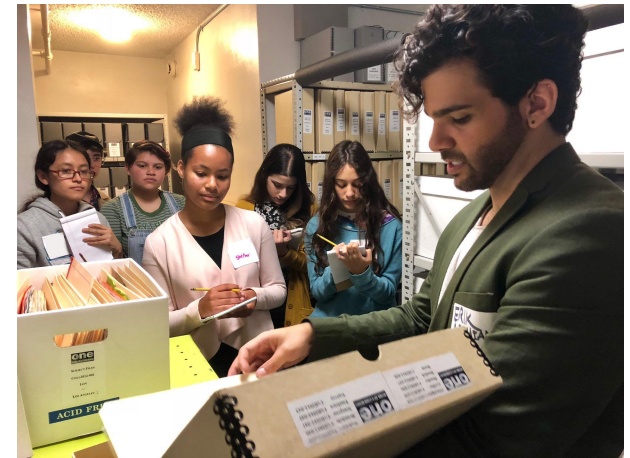
Contact: [tladner@onearchives.org](mailto:tladner@onearchives.org)



- Social studies teacher & GSA sponsor before joining OAF
- Credentialed in CA and MA
- Master's in Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- B.A. in Sociology and African American Studies, Harvard College
- Proud Gen Z and Mississippi Gulf Coast native

# Education Initiatives

- Inspire transformative stories of LGBTQ history to broaden the perspectives of educators, students, and researchers
- Stakeholder in FAIR Education Act since 2017
  - [lgbtqhistory.org](https://lgbtqhistory.org) with Our Family Coalition
- Programs and Resources:
  - LGBTQ History Lesson Plans & Panels
  - Professional Development for Educators
  - Research Fellowships for Students





# LGBTQ History Lesson Plans



## AIDS & HIV ACTIVISM

Help students understand why and how activists responded to the AIDS crisis in the 1980s.



## AUDRE LORDE

Analyze Audre Lorde's writings to explore intersectionality, power and privilege.



## BAYARD RUSTIN

Learn about Bayard Rustin's identity and how it shaped his beliefs and actions.



## BLACK CAT RIOTS

Explore the causes of the Black Cat Riots in Los Angeles' Silverlake neighborhood.



## DAUGHTERS OF BILITIS

Assess how the Daughters of Bilitis' The Ladder magazine supported lesbians in the 1950s.



## FAIR EDUCATION ACT

Explore students' rights to LGBTQ representation in the classroom as set forth in the FAIR Education Act.



## HARVEY MILK

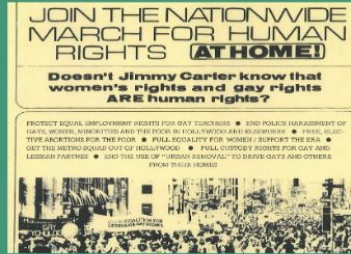
Investigate how Harvey Milk's leadership and the Briggs Initiative united marginalized groups.



## HOLLYWOOD, 1920S-1930S

Were LGBT Americans welcome in Hollywood during the 1920s and 1930s?

# LGBTQ History Lesson Plans



## LGBTQ CIVIL RIGHTS

Examine how the movement for LGBTQ rights were part of the broader Civil Rights Movement.



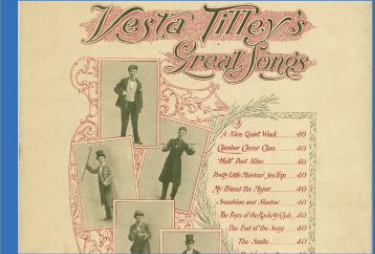
## LGBTQ EQUALITY, 1950-1970

Interrogate how the LGBTQ movement went from assimilation to coming out from 1950-1970.



## MAGNUS HIRSCHFELD

Explore how Magnus Hirschfeld advocated for LGBTQ people in Germany and abroad.



## URBANIZATION & GENDER

Evaluate how urbanization challenged gender role in the late nineteenth century.



## VIETNAM WAR

Explore how sexuality and social conditions impacted LGBTQ Americans during the Vietnam War.



## WORLD WAR I

Evaluate the role female impersonation played in various WWI soldier camp performances.



## LGBTQ FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Explore how *One, Inc. v. Olesen* expanded freedom of speech for the LGBTQ community.



## AMERICAN PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION

Explore how the Biltmore Invasion lead to the de-pathologization of homosexuality.

# Snapshot: *Harvey Milk + Briggs Initiative*

- **Inquiry:** How did Harvey Milk and the Briggs Initiative unite marginalized groups?
- **Standards:**
  - HSS-11.11: Students analyze the major social problems and domestic policy issues in contemporary American society.
  - HSS-12.2: Students evaluate, and take and defend positions on the scope and limits of rights and obligations as democratic citizens, the relationships among them, and how they are secured.
  - CCSS.11-12: cite evidence, provide summary, determine central ideas, evaluate texts, delineate arguments, write informative texts
- **Time:** 90-120 minutes

This lesson plan was created by Christopher Lewis, Mountain View High School, as part of our 2018 teacher symposium.



# Snapshot: Harvey Milk + Briggs Initiative

**Part I:** Students will analyze the purpose of the Briggs Initiative (Prop 6), which was on the California general election ballot in 1978, by delineating arguments in primary sources. The referendum sought to ban gays and lesbians, and potentially their supporters, from working in California's public schools.

Reading Focus: What was the purpose of the Briggs Initiative what evidence was used to argue for and against the proposition?

Argument in Favor

Argument Against

What questions do you still have about the Briggs Initiative?

Source A: California Voter's Pamphlet, General Election, 7 November 1978.

**Argument in Favor of Proposition 6**

Your rights as a parent, a citizen, and a taxpayer are under attack. A coalition of homosexual teachers and their allies are trying to use the vast power of our school system to impose their own brand of non-morality on your children. Recently a quarter of a million of these "gay rights" activists demonstrated in San Francisco on behalf of allowing homosexuality to be taught in the classroom.

This year, we taxpayers are paying \$11 billion to support our schools. That is more money than we spend on police, fire protection, hospitals or any other service of government. We have a right to demand that those schools teach our children that there really is a difference between right and wrong.

This measure will provide for the removal of any teacher, teacher's aide, school administrator or counselor who advocates, solicits, encourages, or promotes homosexual behavior. In the case of *Coyol vs. Tacoma 1977*, the Supreme Court of the United States upheld the right of a local school board to dismiss a homosexual teacher by refusing to review the case.

As parents, we see the symptoms of moral decay all around us: children hooked on hard drugs, sex and violence glorified in the mass media, gang wars, casual pre-marital sex among teenagers, and all the rest. It is not enough to merely tolerate the family, we must create an atmosphere in which it will flourish. We want to protect our children against these things, but without the help of the schools, we are helpless. Our teachers spend more time with our children than we do, and if they fail to do the job, what can we do?

**Argument Against Proposition 6**

PROPOSITION 6 WOULD LEGISLATE INTOLERANCE AND HARASSMENT, unnecessarily increasing the power of government to invade the privacy of many of our citizens. If enacted, it would misuse tax dollars and force school boards to ignore educational needs to spend time and money on enforcement of this discriminatory legislation.

Proponents of this initiative mislead the public when they claim legislation must be enacted to protect students against the possibility of educational personnel advocating a particular way of life. The State Department of Education says unequivocally that sufficient and effective laws and regulations now exist to safeguard any student from misconduct by any teacher—homosexual or heterosexual.

Although they are aware that new laws are unnecessary, sponsors of this legislation seek to fire every homosexual teacher, aide, administrator or counselor, no matter how competent, because of some aspect of his or her private life. This law will require school boards to invade the privacy and threaten the careers of thousands of teachers and other school employees. Rumors will lead to investigations of families, friendships, home

We know that the example of an admired teacher can influence an impressionable young mind more than a library full of books. If that teacher respects the essential decency of American life, he can set the feet of our children on the path of moral responsibility, but if that teacher questions the most elementary truths of our society, his influence can lead to tragedy.

We know that the undermining of traditional values which began in the '60s has left many Americans in a moral vacuum which they attempt to fill with drugs, alcohol, and "alternative life styles." We don't question the right of adults to solve their problems as they see fit, but we do object to their imposing their solutions on our children.

In June, we Californians gave the nation a new idea. The Jarvis Amendment has made fiscal responsibility respectable again and is serving as a model and inspiration for the rest of the nation.

Now the nation is watching us again. We're going to put America back on the high road, not because the politicians want it, but because the people demand it. Your YES vote on Proposition 6 is a vote for the rights of the next generation of Americans.

JOHN V. BRIGGS  
Senator, State of California  
200 Director

DOCTOR RAY BATEMAN  
Pastor, Central Baptist Church

F. LA GARD SMITH  
Professor of Law

**WTF: NO ON SIX**

ives, not only of teachers but also of students. As a result the educational process will be severely disrupted.

Not content to legislate such discriminatory power and waste tax dollars, initiative sponsors want to limit the free speech and objective teaching of all educators, of any sexual preference.

This proposal ignores the wishes of those who seek self-government in their lives and stifles the voices of those who believe in the right to privacy and civil liberties. If legislators represent that *themselves* every individual and group.

We don't need to squander tax dollars to invade privacy and disrupt school systems. Fair and effective laws now exist to protect our students. DON'T INSTITUTE WTF: SIX.

WTF: NO ON SIX

JANE MARSHALL MURPHY  
San Francisco Police Commissioner

RACHEL WELBY  
President, California Federation of Teachers,  
477 W. 12th

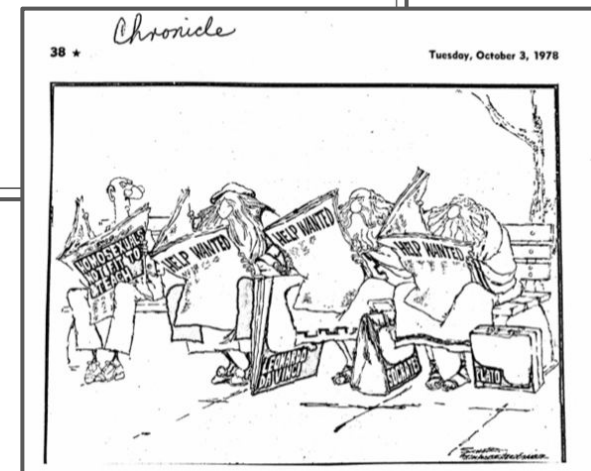
EDMUND D. EDELMAN  
Los Angeles County Supervisor, 3rd District



# Snapshot: *Harvey Milk + Briggs Initiative*

**Part 2:** Students will evaluate voices of those opposed to the initiative by evaluating primary sources, including posters, flyers, and political cartoons. Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official, was a key voice of opposition. Other groups— including African Americans, feminists, and unionists— also opposed the initiative.

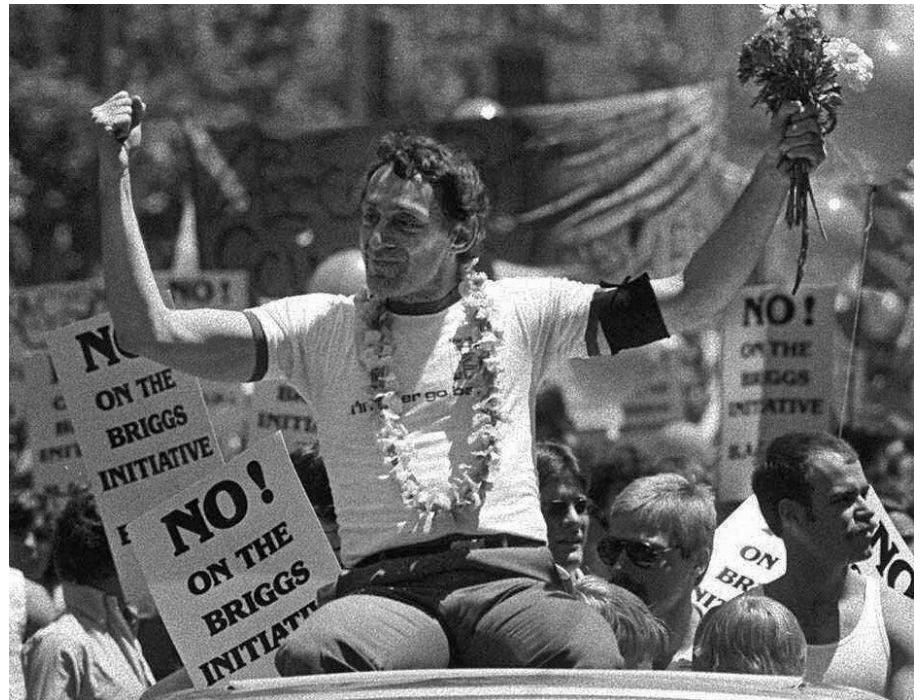
<b>Essential Question:</b>	
Document Type _____ Author/Creator _____ Time Period _____	
<b>Historical Context</b> When and where was this document created? What background information will help us understand the document?	<b>Audience</b> Who is the intended audience and what do we know about them? How are reliability & accuracy affected?
<b>Purpose</b> Why or for what reason was this source produced? What was the authors/creators goal?	<b>Point of View</b> What aspects of the author's identity affect his/her argument? What bias does the author have that is seen in the document?



# Snapshot: *Harvey Milk + Briggs Initiative*

"The young gay people who are coming out and hear Anita Bryant on television and her story. The only thing they have to look forward to is hope. And you have to give them hope. Hope for a better world, hope for a better tomorrow, hope for a better place to come to if the pressures at home are too great... Without hope, not only gays, but the blacks, the seniors, the handicapped, the us'es, the us'es will give up. And if you help elect to the central committee and other offices, more gay people, that gives a green light to all who feel disenfranchised... It means hope to a nation that has given up, because if a gay person makes it, the doors are open to everyone."

**Part 3:** Students will closely read Harvey Milk's speech on hope given after the defeat of Prop 6 on June 25, 1978.



# Snapshot: *Harvey Milk + Briggs Initiative*

**Assessment:** Students will write a response to the essential question, citing evidence from the documents read during the lesson. Students should focus on identifying arguments used for and against the Briggs Initiative and address how Harvey Milk highlighted the importance of collective action and hope.

**Extension:** Students can evaluate current policies that are being enacted or proposed to restrict liberties of LGBTQ educators and students and the responses of different communities to these policies.

CLAIM ⇨ EVIDENCE ⇨ REASONING ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING	
What is my <b>CLAIM</b> ? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What will I argue?</li><li>• What will I prove?</li></ul>	
What <b>EVIDENCE</b> supports my claim? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Data / Statistics</li><li>• Historical examples</li><li>• Textual evidence</li></ul>	
What <b>REASONING</b> or <b>ARGUMENT</b> can I make based on the evidence? <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How does the evidence support my claim?</li></ul>	



# Personal Teaching Tip

Current events are an engaging, relevant way to bring LGBTQ issues into the classroom.

- NewsELA (articles adapted for diff. lexiles + includes standards-aligned assessments)

## Structure + functions of Congress

- House debate on Equality Act

## SCOTUS & Constitutional Rights

- Overturning of *Roe v. Wade* - right to privacy)
- *303 Creative LLC v. Elenis* (2022) - freedom of speech/expression + equal protection

Debate on the Equality Act  
[Video](#)

**Background:** First introduced in 2015, the Equality Act prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in areas including public accommodations and facilities, education, federal funding, employment, housing, credit, and the jury system. Specifically, the bill defines and includes sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity among the prohibited categories of discrimination or segregation. The bill allows the Department of Justice to intervene in equal protection actions in federal court on account of sexual orientation or gender identity. The bill prohibits an individual from being denied access to a shared facility, including a restroom, a locker room, and a dressing room, that is in accordance with the individual's gender identity.

**Objective:** I can describe the perspectives of two different representatives, a gay Democrat and a California Republican, on the Equality Act.

Member of the House	Rep. Tom McClintock (R-CA)	Rep. Mark Pocan (D-WI)
1. What argument does this representative make about this bill?		
2. Who is he claiming to represent?		

**Transcript of Rep. McClintock:** MR. SPEAKER, THIS LAW COULD NOT BE PLAINER. IT SAYS GENDER'S NOT A QUESTION OF GENETICS BUT OF PERSONAL CHOICE. THIS CALLS FOR ITS DOCTRINE TO BE IMPOSED UNDER FORCE OF LAW AND THE EFFECT IS FRIGHTENING. STATES THAT HAVE ADOPTED SIMILAR LAWS HAVE THREE AND INTIMIDATED THE FRE ME FOCUS ON TWO ASPEC WOMEN'S SPORTS AND RE PROTECT THEIR OWN CHIL WORKED HER HEART OUT

**Transcript of Rep. Pocan:** THANK YOU, MR. SPEAKER. I HAD A DIFFERENT SPEECH I WAS GOING TO GIVE TODAY ABOUT THE EQUALITY ACT. AS AN OPENLY GAY MEMBER OF CONGRESS, MARRIED TO MY HUSBAND, PHIL. FOR 14 YEARS, I WAS GOING TO

**Do Now:** *303 Creative v. Elenis* (2022)

**As you watch:** What are the arguments of both sides? What constitutional rights are being interpreted? What could be the impact of this case throughout the country?





# History Panels

OAF is the leading provider of **high quality and visually engaging History Panels** that educate and enthuse various audiences about LGBTQ history and culture.

Themes include:

- LGBTQ Civil Rights Movement
- Transgender History
- Legendary Lesbians
- AIDS Timeline
- ... and more!

These are a great resource for educators to implement in classroom activities (i.e. gallery walks), or for use in your school-wide LGBTQ History Month or Pride Month programming. They are available on a sliding scale.



# Professional Development for Educators

OAF offers **free workshops on teaching LGBTQ history in K-12 classrooms** in collaboration with our community partners. Activities and digital resources, aligned with the California FAIR Education Act and the new California History-Social Science Framework, are organized for participants to use following each workshop and webinar.

These opportunities include:

- On-site school/district trainings
- Teacher webinars
- Summer symposiums



Teaching LGBTQ History:  
**How did *ONE Inc. v Olesen*  
expand freedom of speech?**



# Research Fellowships for Youth

**Youspeak Radio** is an intergenerational audio story project led by LGBTQ youth. Participants learn about storytelling, audio documentary, and oral history in addition to LGBTQ+ history

**Youth Ambassadors for Queer History** is a hands-on research program for high school students from across Los Angeles. For an academic semester, students research and create LGBTQ history projects while participating in presentations, discussions, field trips, and more.



# Connect with Us!

Visit **onearchives.org** to access teaching resources or to learn more about our programs.



For inquiries related to our education initiatives, I can be reached **tladner@onearchives.org**.