

Executive Summary

Course Title: *Straightlaced- How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up* documentary film screening & discussion

Outline of Training:

About the film

Straightlaced- How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up takes a powerful and intimate look at how popular pressures around gender and sexuality are shaping the lives of American teens. The film proudly showcases the diverse and unscripted voices of more than 50 high school students from a variety of different communities, all of whom speak with breathtaking honesty, insight, and humor about gender roles and their struggles to be who they really are.

The film covers a wide range of issues including: body image, dating and relationships, sexual pressures, gender roles and stereo types, meanings of masculinity and femininity, identity questions, gender, race, and culture, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender experiences, homophobia, gender-based violence, media messages, and more.

As the youth in *Straightlaced* share their courageous stories, they model the possibility of dialogue and action, offering both teens and adults a springboard for exploring crucial safety, identity, and equity issues and for helping to build more inclusive and empowering schools and communities.

Agenda

Straightlaced film screening and facilitated discussion

- Setting Ground Rules
- Pre-Screening Pair-Share Activity: Messages You've Gotten About Gender
- Terminology Group Review: Defining Modern Terms (includes terms handout)
- Introduction to the Film
- Film Screening
- Reflection Activity: Safe space to collect thoughts individually & briefly process feelings that came up in pair-share
- Open Group Discussion
 - Initial responses
 - Exploring gender roles, expectations, and pressures
 - Gender identity and stepping outside the box
 - Creating safe and inclusive spaces
- Action Steps
- Closing & Check-Out

Target Audience: Adult professionals who work directly with youth or supervise staff who do.

Outcome Objectives for Participants:

Screening the feature-length documentary *Straightlaced- How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up* provides participants with a unique opportunity to hear from real youth sharing their perspectives and stories about gender- and talking about how gender expectations intersect with issues of race, culture, class, and sexuality. The facilitated activities and discussions promote participants to explore:

- Gender expectations that limit everyone regardless of their own identity;
- Rampant homophobia that leads to violence and bullying;
- Stereotypes that limit students' academic, career, and extracurricular choices;
- The sexual pressures that teens face today;
- The intersection of racial, gender, and class bias;
- Creating more equitable and inclusive learning environments.

Ways that Supervisors can support the Transfer of Learning from the classroom to the job...

BEFORE the training

Supervisors can prep staff for the *Straightlaced documentary film screening & discussion* by reviewing the Executive Summary and identifying something to think about or look for while participating in the training. Additionally, supervisors can watch the film trailer with staff found at this link: <http://groundspark.org/trailers/straightlaced.html>.

AFTER the training

Supervisors can support staff by watching *Straightlaced- How Gender's Got Us All Tied Up* by streaming the film here: <http://www.newdaydigital.com/vmchk/Straightlaced-How-Gender-s-Got-Us-All-Tied-Up.html>. Also, supervisors can meet with staff and ask to review any training handouts, about the participant's impressions of the film and discussions, the participant to identify ways the information from the training can be applied, as well as how to adequately support the participant to carry out the action steps determined at the training.