

Final Paper (Option #2: Annotated Curriculum Resource Guide)

Gender, Sexuality, the Body and Social Studies Curriculum

Marie Bond

UBC EDCP 333A-302

Topic Overview

For my annotated curriculum resource guide, I chose to focus on the topic we explored during week 7, *Gender, Sexuality, the Body and Social Studies Curriculum*. This module focused on normalizing beliefs about gender, sexuality, and the body within the classroom, emphasizing the need for such prevalent themes to be incorporated into the Social Studies curriculum. More specifically, this module included experiences of LGBTQ+ educators, the incorporation of a trans pedagogy within the discipline, teaching students about issues surrounding stigmas and rights, and voices of Two-Spirit individuals. Additionally, this week concluded with a helpful section on discussing such related issues with parents and community members as future educators; all circling back to the belief that gender, sexuality, and the body should be normalized within educational practices.

With the above overview in mind, it is important that as future educators, we are aware and educated on issues pertaining to gender, sexuality, and the body. The overarching theme appears to be a lack of discussion on such topics within the classroom; which is why a resource guide for teachers, on such issues, is both relevant and needed. Unlike teaching students about issues surrounding race or politics, modern ideas and beliefs regarding gender and sexuality are relatively new for most people, teachers included. Nevertheless, they are just as prevalent and important, and it is our duty as teachers to support our LGBTQ+ students. As well, supporting and educating parents and community members through resources, taking a top-down approach in knowledge building and sharing. My goal in gathering resources is to focus on the 5W's – who, what, where, when, and why. Who needs support, and who is included within these groups? What are the major issues and concerns, and what can we do as educators? Where are we most seeing instances of stigma, and how do we stop it? When is the right time to discuss these issues with our students?

Why are we teaching about these issues? My hope in creating a resource guide around gender, sexuality, and the body is that I will have compiled a toolbox of sources that other educators can turn to while preparing to teach their students about these themes. Additionally, they should act as easily understandable and accessible resources that students can refer to as well. My list of resources are consistent in that they are all general, yet knowledge filled, assuming the audience only has a baseline understanding of such issues. It is important to educate on the basics of terminology, real life narratives, and allyship to ensure a united, inclusive classroom and school environment. My list of resources surely covers all of these themes. Ultimately, my goal while piecing together sources was to make certain that each one was accessible, comprehensible, and suitable for Social Studies teacher use, high school student learning, and parent and community member education.

Annotated Bibliography

A K-12 Sexuality Education Curriculum. (n.d.). Retrieved December 8, 2020, from <https://3rs.org/3rs-curriculum/>

This website acts as a Kindergarten to Grade 12 curriculum guide on sexuality education. The website's goal is to provide an inclusive sex education for students of all grade levels, one that can be easily translated by educators. The theme of the curriculum is Rights, Respect, and Responsibility, as its framework and resources aim to not only provide sexuality education knowledge, but more so a basis for skill building and behaviors. Specifically, the *Teacher's Guide & Additional Resources* tab is a helpful place for teachers to refer to before teaching about such issues. This section of the website provides teachers with an introductory guide on how to approach discussions about sexuality, including fostering respect in the classroom and developing appropriate language and lessons. As well, this section includes frequently asked questions by other educators and a downloadable guide that can be given to parents. Its well thought out resources, lesson plans, and training tools make it a very useful platform to seek out prior to teaching about topics related to sexuality, gender, and the body.

American Psychological Association. (2015). Key terms and concepts in understanding gender diversity and sexual orientation among students. *Informational Guide*.

This easily accessible pdf article was written in conjunction with the American Psychological Association and is a part of a series of five pamphlets all regarding gender diversity, sexuality, and support within schools and home. While the other four pamphlets are extraordinarily helpful guides for teachers and parents, this particular

pamphlet outlines key terms and ideas regarding gender and sexuality for student use.

This article is 6 pages and includes statistics for students and an extensive list of terminology, all arranged very orderly. I felt the need to include this specific resource on this list because it acts as an ideal, single source handout that can be given to students.

While other sources explored on this list include terminology and clarifications on concepts, they are not as extensive or are limited in comparison to this article. In thinking about its usefulness, I see myself printing off a class set of this short article and asking my students to have store it at the front of their binders for accessibility whenever needed. As well, it is also a very informative piece for parents and community member alike looking to gain a more baseline understanding of the various terms associated with ideas on gender and sexuality.

Feder, S. & Scholder, A. (2020). *Discloser: Trans Lives on Screen* [Documentary]. Retrieved from <https://www.netflix.com/search?q=disc&jbv=81284247>

This Netflix feature documentary that follows the lives of trans people, their struggles, over comings, and breakthroughs. The films main purpose was trans representation, as the media often stereotypes trans lives or leaves them out of the narrative completely. The film also explores intersections of race, class, and fame within various trans stories. Despite the film being based on American history and focusing on American culture, it can be easily understood and translated through Canadian perspective. While the trans community portrayed in the film are proud of how far trans representation within the media has come, they all share a common belief that there is work still to be done. This is a useful and very accessible resource, seeing as though it is on Netflix, for teachers to

consider while thinking about trans education. I included it amongst the other resources on this list because of its focus on trans pedagogy, a concept that has yet to be the main focus of the other sources. Seeing as though it can be watched through Netflix, it is also a great film for parents, community members, or anyone looking to learn more about trans representation and truths.

Gender and sexual identity in schools. (2018). Retrieved December 8, 2020, from

<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/school-health/sex-education-and-sexual-identity/gender-and-sexual-identity-in-schools#.X9CDKhNKgUs>

This webpage, located on the Fraser Health website, specifically explains some of the terminology educators should familiarize themselves with in regard to gender and sexual identity in schools. It also explains various tools and strategies teachers can create inclusive classrooms environments for their students, and potentially the school community at large. It provides a number of resources for teachers, the majority of which can be passed on to parents. I stumbled upon this webpage while exploring the Fraser Health website during my short practicum and was excited to see that they had included a section on sexuality and gender practices within the classroom in 2018. While this seems recent, it is definitely a step in the right direction for our local schools, as the Fraser Health webpage is a frequently visited and easily accessible source for many. As mentioned previously, this page is intended for teacher use, but can be accessed by anyone, including public community members as it is a government website.

Hobbs, M., & Rice, C. (2018). *Gender and women's studies: Critical terrain* (2nd ed.). Toronto: Women's Press.

This textbook acts as an introductory level source regarding all things gender and women's studies. More specifically, it examines a range of topics within the field, including key issues, approaches, concerns, and analyses. This textbook is framed through a feminist perspective and deals with gender as an overarching theme that intersects with ideas like race, class, and sexuality. It also includes Indigenous perspectives on gender and highlights Indigenous voices throughout. Much like the textbook on sexuality and the body, mentioned above, I was introduced to this source during an entry level Gender, Sexuality, and Women Studies course during my undergraduate. While it is too a university textbook, it includes a broad range of gender related topics that are useful for general teacher knowledge and reference. The newest edition of the textbook also discusses gendered issues relating to the Black Lives Matter movement and new media. So, various sections of the textbook are extremely relevant and can be used independently in class discussions about current events and their relation to gender. It's broad, comprehensive content, as well as multiple infographics and bolded terminology, also make it an easy option for parents wanting more information on gender and given interrelated topics.

HRC. (n.d.). Retrieved December 8, 2020, from <https://www.hrc.org/>

This website is an informative, illustrative platform that serves as a discussion space and support network for LGBTQ+ human rights and equality. Additionally, it provides information on involvement, recent highlights and news stories, and a plethora of resource topics that provide further education and support. The websites underlying

message is on education through inspiration. This is clear through the various firsthand narratives and videos of rallies present throughout the site. This is one of the main resources amongst this list that focuses mostly on the human and equal rights side of sexuality, gender, and the body, which is important to have alongside more general sources. Given the colorful aesthetic, organized layout, and easily understood infographics, I believe that this is a useful resource for students to explore in order to better understand their role as LGBTQ+ allies and supporters. Again, there is a whole section with resources for teachers and parents too, including tabs on LGBTQ+ youth, workplace, and parenting.

Hues. (n.d.). An Adorable, Accessible Way to Explain a Complicated Concept " The Genderbread Person. Retrieved December 8, 2020, from <https://www.genderbread.org/>

This online platform is designed to be a “punny” teaching tool for teaching gender, hence “Genderbread” person. The website is not overly detailed or comprehensive, but more so just explains the purpose and strategies behind the Genderbread person. That is, that the Genderbread person, and the attached criteria and meanings, is decorated with a brain to represent gender identity, a heart as representative of sexual attraction, an anatomical sex symbol that represents sex, and an outline of the body as representative of expression. The symbols are placed in the corresponding, appropriate areas on the person and the terminology is further explained below the Genderbread; all in plain language. This is a very handy resource to have displayed in your classroom or even handed out to each student, as it can simply be printed on normal sized printing paper through the download. I was first introduced to the Genderbread person during my undergraduate, as an

introduction to a Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies class. Since then, I have a photograph of the download saved on my computer for easy reference and have even taught close friends and family about the difference between concepts through it. Its main purpose is just that, to provide a general, introductory understanding of the differences between gender identity, sexuality, sex, and expression. It does this in a very creative, engaging, and very easy to interpret way.

Mardell, A. (2016). *The ABC's of LGBTQ+*. Mango Media Inc.

This non-fiction book stems from a place of empowerment and is less of a traditional style textbook of knowledge for information and more of a resource for understanding. This is not to dismiss the authors attention to detail throughout the book, or valuable explanations of various LGBTQ+ movements, significant breakthroughs in regard to gay rights and leadership, and discussions of gender fluency in our now non-binary world. However, the authors use of humour, multiple infographics, philosophical perspectives, and nuance make it a pleasant read for both teachers and students who are looking to broaden their understandings of sexuality, gender, and the body beyond definitions and general information. More so, this book can act as a powerful classroom resource for further perspective and understanding on deeper issues related to such topics. Within the classroom, a lot of this book's sections on empowerment, change, empathy, identification, and many other loaded words included within the text can be used during small group discussions to get students to think about their own experiences and how they can act as allies for LGBTQ+ matters. It is a great book for students, teachers, parents, and community members alike seeking additional understanding on such topics.

Pukall, C. F. (2020). *Human Sexuality: A Contemporary Introduction* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.

This introductory level textbook explores sexuality and the body through a biological bases, which is used to further connect to human sexuality from a societal and cultural lens. This textbook gathers its findings from multiple interdisciplinary sources and perspectives, and is frequently being updated to incorporate current research, developments, and practices. I was introduced to this textbook during an entry level Health Science class, so I am familiar with its colourful, easily comprehensible text and images. This being said, I particularly like this source because of its biological framework, as it addresses issues related to human sexuality and the body through a more scientific lens than many other texts of a similar nature. Teachers can use this textbook as an introductory knowledge tool for better understanding clinical practices and biomedical issues related to sexuality. I also think it is of benefit for teachers to have a comprehensive textbook on sexuality and the body handy to refer to if needed. As well, it is a potentially beneficial resource for parents seeking an introductory explanation of the biological backgrounds of sexuality and the body.

SOGI 1 2 3. (2019). Retrieved December 8, 2020, from <https://www.sogieducation.org/>

The SOGI 123 website is an exceptional, inclusive platform that provides approaches, findings, and resources for all of teachers, students, and parents on all thing's sexual orientation and gender identity, hence "SOGI". SOGI is a Western Canada based practice that aims at providing a framework for a safe and inclusive school community, where all genders and sexualities are understood and welcomed. The website is divided into parts,

with approaches, results, and collaborations further explain SOGI's message of inclusion, as well as tabs for educators and parents. The teacher tab include resources for teachers on areas such as inclusivity in the classroom, the impact on physical environments for LGBTQ+ students and allies, and recently a section on virtual learning success. For parents, there is a designated section where they can find answers to their children's questions related to gender and sexuality, as well as proactive measure they can take in discussing such ideas with their children. SOGI is a relevant, easily accessible website that has already shifted classroom practices and teachings regarding gender and sexuality within our very province. The websites minimalistic webpage is displayed neatly and orderly, as well as it is updated very regularly, ensuring it is a useful tool to aid in various process on sexuality and gender.

Stevens, C. (2017). *Dress codes for small towns*. HarperTeen.

This teen fiction novel is the perfect book for new high school students worried about friendships, struggling to fit in, finding their identities, or simply dealing with the transition that is high school. The protagonist in the story is Billie McCaffery, a religious raised tomboy from a small town who could care less about typical high school things like makeup or boys. Instead, Billie is struggling with her gender identity and sexuality, and while she starts developing feelings for her female friend, she is struggling to see past her parent's beliefs, heteronormative teachings, and self-identity generally. However, as the novel progresses, Billie begins to realize that her feelings are more important than "keeping the peace" and begins to grow as a young woman paving her own destiny. I thought it was important to include a fiction book in this list of resources because often

fiction reads can act as a creative, less “pressure filled” read, where students have the ability to construct their own meaning from the text while still gaining understanding of underlying themes. In this book, there are evident themes of sexuality, gender, and identity seeking, all ideas that relate to this guide. I appreciate the use of a fiction novel because it acts as a resource that students can pick up during off times or breaks and read at their own pace. Again, they are also useful, especially this book, at discussing ideas related to educational topics, like sexuality and gender, in a less traditional, discrete way.

Stevenson, R. (2020). *Pride: The Celebration and the Struggle*. Orca Book Publishers.

This non-fiction, updated book focuses on a range of topics related to the diverse LGBTQ+ community, the challenges, and the triumphs they have overcome over the past several years. The theme of this book centres around activism, as the author’s intended audience is young people. The author claims that his goal through the creation of this text was for young people to see that there is still work to be done, and that it is young people’s duty to continue to fight for equality and justice. Notably, this book includes stories from LGBTQ+ people themselves, including a trans woman from Vancouver. I specifically chose this updated 2020 edition because of its newly expanded content, including a section on how schools can support LGBTQ+ students and how youth can act as allies for the community. Not only does this book cover issues related to sexuality but has designated sections on gendered issues as well. It’s colourful, appealing design makes this book an easy choice for student reference and engagement. Again, it is also written with a youthful audience in mind, so it’s language use and organization make it a useful resource for students seeking a comprehensive, yet manageable understanding. This book

is also useful for teachers wanting an additional non-fiction resource that is reliable and up to date in its information.