LGBTQIA Icebreaker

Instructions:

1) Read your card and note mentally which ones you can answer
2) Be prepared to sign your name and share what you know with others
3) Each person may sign only one square on a card.
4) Circulate around the room

FIND SOMEONE WHO:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Can explain the connections between racism, heterosexism, and other forms of oppression.</th>
<th>2. Knows why the Stonewall Center is named “Stonewall.”</th>
<th>3. Knows how many U.S. states have LGBTQ civil rights laws.</th>
<th>4. Has attended an LGBTQIA event in the past year.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9. Can name a religious tradition that is open and affirming of its LGBTQIA members.</td>
<td>10. Knows who Christine Jorgensen was.</td>
<td>11. Has an LGBTQIA family member or close friend.</td>
<td>12. Knows the decade when homosexuality lost its official status as a mental illness.</td>
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<td>13. Can explain the difference between transgender people and people with intersex variations.</td>
<td>14. Can name the first openly lesbian member of Congress.</td>
<td>15. Knows the name of the first primetime television series to feature an openly LGBTQ lead character.</td>
<td>16. Knows who Wanda Sykes is.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
LGBTQIA Icebreaker Answer Sheet

1. Can explain the connections between racism, heterosexism, and other forms of oppression.
Some connections include the ways in which oppression privileges the “majority” group and disadvantages the “minority” group and the dehumanizing effects on the oppressed group.

2. Knows why the Stonewall Center is named “Stonewall.”
The Stonewall Inn was a gay bar in New York City’s Greenwich Village. A police raid on the bar on June 28, 1969 led to three nights of rioting. Widely considered to be the symbolic beginning of the modern LGBT rights movement, “Stonewall,” as it came to be called, inspired the creation of LGBT organizations throughout the country. The event is commemorated annually with Pride parades in the U.S. and around the world.

3. Knows how many U.S. states have LGBTQ civil rights laws.

“Genderqueer” is a term adopted by some people who identify as neither male nor female, as both, or as somewhere in between, and who often seek to blur gender lines. It is a particularly common identity among transgender youth.

6. Can explain the difference between sexual orientation and gender identity.
Sexual orientation is based on one’s emotional, romantic, and erotic attractions toward others, while gender identity is one’s sense of one’s own gender. Put another way, sexual orientation is who you go to bed with, whereas gender identity is who you go to bed as.

7. Has heard someone say disparagingly, “That’s SO GAY!”
“That’s so gay” has become one of the most commonly used derogatory remarks in high schools and middle schools. According to The 2007 National School Climate Survey by GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network), more than 90% of LGBT students heard the phrase often at school, and most of these students felt some distress or were bothered by the remark.

8. Knows how many countries give same-sex couples the right to marry.
Same-sex couples can currently marry in 22 countries: Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom (England, Wales, and Scotland), the United States, and Uruguay.
9. Can name a religious tradition that is open and affirming of its LGBTQIA members.
While some places of worship and religious denominations are intolerant of people with different sexual and gender identities, others are very accepting, including Reform Judaism, Unitarian Universalists, the United Church of Christ, the Society of Friends (Quakers), and the predominantly LGBTQ Metropolitan Community Church. Many churches and synagogues in the Pioneer Valley readily welcome LGBTQIA people as worshippers; some have LGBTQIA clergy and/or perform same-sex marriages.

10. Knows who Christine Jorgensen was.
Jorgensen was the first person from the United States to become widely known for having what was then called a “sex change” when she transitioned from male to female in 1952. She became an international celebrity and served as an inspiration and role model for many transsexual women.

12. Knows when homosexuality lost its official status as a mental illness.
In 1973, protests from lesbian, gay, and bisexual activists and supportive mental health professionals led the American Psychiatric Association’s board of trustees to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders. The decision was affirmed the following year by a vote of the membership.

13. Can explain the difference between transgender people and people with intersex variations.
An intersex person has male and female biological characteristics, and a transgender person has a sense of identity that is incongruous with the identity attributed to them based on their biology.

14. Can name the first openly lesbian member of Congress.
Wisconsin Democratic Representative Tammy Baldwin became the first out lesbian member of Congress when she was elected in 1998; she was elected to the Senate in 2012. Currently, six out LGB people, all Democrats, serve in the House: Jared Polis (Colorado), Sean Maloney (New York), Mark Takano (California), David Cicilline (Rhode Island), Mark Pocan (Wisconsin), and Kyrsten Sinema (Arizona). Sinema is the first out bisexual to serve in Congress.

15. Knows the name of the first primetime U.S. television series to feature an openly LGBTQ lead character.
*Love, Sidney* starring Tony Randall was the first primetime U.S. television series to have a gay character as its central lead, but the character was closeted throughout the show’s run from 1981-1983. *Ellen* (1994-1998) starring Ellen DeGeneres was the first show with an openly LGBT lead. Ellen DeGeneres came out in 1997, shortly before her character on the show did.

16. Knows who Wanda Sykes is.
Wanda Sykes is an Emmy Award-winning actor and stand-up comedian who came out as a lesbian and married her partner in 2008. She has been active in challenging California’s Proposition 8, which banned same-sex marriages in the state.