

READ AROUNDS FOR FACULTY WORKSHOP:

Ten faculty members should read ten of the following statements during the workshop. During the student workshops, faculty should pass a few out to the students to read.

- 54% of 7th-8th graders in Newton have seen someone else bullied in school.¹¹
- 21% of middle schools students in Newton report that they have been bullied in school.²¹
- GLBT students in Massachusetts were 4x more likely to attempt suicide.³²
- GLBT students in Massachusetts were 4x more likely to skip school because they felt unsafe.⁴²
- “It wasn’t that there was negative stuff – there wasn’t even any positive! There was just nothing. It was like people like me didn’t exist.” - *Brown Middle School*
- “No one would ever come out. So many people would talk about you. No one would dare.” - *Brown Middle School*
- “There were almost no steps to curb GLBT harassment. There were stickers, but no one ever explained them.” - *Oak Hill Middle School*
- “I heard “that’s so gay” a lot in school. It made me uncomfortable, but I never wanted to say anything.” - *Brown Middle School*
- “I heard a teacher lecture a student once about “that’s so gay”, otherwise no one cared.” - *Bigelow Middle School*
- I frequently see kids being calling other kids names like “gay” or “retarded” but I never see any kids or teachers intervene. No one seems to take this seriously or think that this is bullying, but I know it is and that it probably really hurts the person being called that name. - *Day Middle School*
- “Teachers should just mention that some people are gay or have gay parents, and that it is totally okay.” - *Brown Middle School*
- “I didn’t even know about LGBT Safe Zones or what a GSA was. In middle school, I didn’t even know it was possible.” - *Brown Middle School*
- “A lot of casual and derogatory use of the word “gay”. Adults would intervene if they heard it in the halls but it wasn’t considered a particularly bad word to use. - *Brown Middle School*

¹¹ 2011 YRBS Newton Public Schools

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³² 2009 MA YRBS

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- “Acceptance was generally encouraged, but nothing specific to GLBT issues.” - *Oak Hill Middle School*
- “In my class, there was a boy who was called gay and made fun of frequently. Most of the other students ignored what was going on.” - *Oak Hill Middle School*
- “I would like to see more rainbows in the classroom.” - *Bigelow Middle School*
- Advertise the GSA more.” - *Bigelow Middle School*
- “I’ve seen and heard many times when the word “gay” has been used as a derogatory adjective, usually by guys.” - *Day Middle School*
- “Someone said ‘that’s gay’ and the teacher got extremely angry and had us all sit down.” - *Day Middle School*
- “My girlfriend and I (as well as some straight students) were called fags/faggots anonymously on Formspring.” - *Bigelow Middle School*