

**Presents The Homecoming Project
with Academy Award Winner Dustin Lance Black**

Lesson Plan 2: Find a Role Model, Be a Role Model

Goals

To help students understand the need to not only have positive role models but also be a positive role model.
To increase students' awareness of influential LGBT people in the media and history.

Objectives

To introduce students to a successful person in the LGBT community and learn from his or her experience.
To demonstrate the impact that specific LGBT people have had on the world.

Supplies Needed

- Lance Black Homecoming Project video and playing device
- Large pieces of paper, chalkboard, or white board for large-group brainstorm
- Paper for group activity
- Markers
- Photos of historical figures (provided)
- Slips of paper with unusual facts about historical figures (provided)

Session Outline

As always, start the session by reinforcing the ground rules of your group – boundaries you have set to ensure that youth feel safe to talk openly with each other. For example:

- Keep the conversation door closed – everything said in this room stays in this room.
- Respect the person who is talking – listen to what they say until they're done saying it.
- Understand that everyone's opinion is valid – we don't all have to think the same things.

Warm Up: Historical Mix and Match Game (10 minutes)

(Photos and facts for this exercise are provided at the end of this lesson plan.)

Before the session, print out pictures of people who have in some way influenced history either positively or negatively. The pictures can be of political leaders, historical figures, LGBT activists, civil rights leaders and/or celebrities. Display the pictures on a table. Prepare slips of paper which each contain a fact about one of the people. The facts can be both obvious and unusual. Do not include the name of the historical figure on their corresponding slip(s). Try to include as many obscure and interesting facts as possible. Example: a picture of Albert Einstein might include the facts "developed the theory of relativity" and "classically trained concert violinist."

For the opening activity, instruct students to match facts with historical figures. Let this exercise lead into a discussion based on the following questions:

- How has each of these historical figures influenced history?
Example: Albert Einstein developed the ideas that lead to the first nuclear bomb.
- A role model is someone whose life, ideas or actions influence other people. How has this person been a role model to future generations? Who might they have been a role model for?
Example: Although his teachers didn't originally think he was very smart, Albert Einstein developed the ideas that led to the first nuclear bomb.
- Do you think this person knew they were acting as a role model when they performed the very acts that led them to fame?
- Is it more important to do great things or to influence people for good?

Dustin Lance Black Homecoming Project Video (10 minutes)

Show Dustin Lance Black Homecoming Project video.

Live Out Loud works to connect LGBT youth with positive role models who help them live the life of their dreams. Dustin Lance Black is an openly gay writer, producer, and movie director. In 2008, he won an Academy Award for writing the screenplay Milk. Through Live Out Loud's Homecoming Project, Dustin Lance Black recently returned to his high school to talk about the struggles of being a gay teenager.

Since Dustin Lance Black can't visit your school personally, please use this video to present him as a "virtual" role model for your group.

Video Reflection (10 minutes)

During his visit to North Salinas High School, Dustin Lance Black gave credit for much of his success to his role model, Harvey Milk. Use Dustin Lance Black's Homecoming Project video to begin a discussion about Harvey Milk's role in fighting for LGBT rights and the importance of positive role models. Ask:

- Dustin Lance Black says that Harvey Milk is his "great role model" (2:45 – 3:30) What do you know about Harvey Milk's story? Why do you think Dustin Lance Black chose Harvey Milk as his role model?
- Spend a few minutes telling the story of Harvey Milk's fight for LGBT rights.
- Who are some of your role models? Why do you look to them for inspiration?
- Does a person have to be LGBT to be a good role model for LGBT youth?
- During the video, a young man stands and shares his story of telling his parents about his bisexuality (4:50). Lance says that the young man is "incredibly brave" for sharing his story.
 - What qualities did this young man show that make him a role model?
 - What could you learn from him?
 - How would you like to be more like him?

Role Model Discussion Activity (15 minutes)

Just because someone is "out" and in the media does not necessarily mean that they are a good role model. We must be careful not to emulate LGBT celebrities just because they are "out". While many openly LGBT celebrities are brave people who work to break down stereotypes and help others better understand the LGBT community, some do not always set a good example.

Instruct your students to make a list of "out" LGBT celebrities. Reflect on their list and ask:

- Which of these people are good role models?
- What qualities do they have that make them good role models?

- Which of these celebrities set a bad example for LGBT youth who are deciding what kind of people they want to grow up to be?
- What about these people's actions make them poor role models?

Final Challenge (3 minutes)

The LGBT community has many great role models such as Bayard Rustin, Audre Lorde, Pauline Park and Gloria Anzaldua. Spend a few minutes telling your students the stories of the many heroes who have helped shape the LGBT community. You can find their stories at www.outhistory.org.

Role models are all around us. Some of them are celebrities, politicians, artists and activists but some are everyday heroes we shouldn't ignore. Role models inspire us to do great things and become great people. Through their actions, our role models give us a road map for who we can become.

You can find a role model! You can be a role model!

Take Home (2 minutes)

At Live Out Loud, we believe that LGBT youth need strong role models to help them navigate the challenges of adolescence. With this in mind, encourage your students to take at least one of the following actions this week:

- Find a new role model – somebody whose story inspires you. If this person is a celebrity, research their story, their political views and the qualities they possess that make them a positive role model. Consider writing them a letter telling them that they inspire you. If your new role model is a person you know, invite them to have coffee and thank them for being a positive influence on you.
- Since you're already bombarded with the stories of pop culture icons, athletes and politicians, go to www.outhistory.org and learn more about some lesser known heroes from the LGBT community. What did they do to create change? What inspired them? How do they inspire you? How can you be a similar inspiration to others?
- Write a journal entry or compose a blog post about what it means to be a role model. What qualities do you have that make you a good role model for others? What qualities would you like to develop? What do you need to change to be a better role model?
- Change your Facebook status to say "is inspired by (insert role model). They are my role model because (insert reason). Who's your role model?"

Historical Mix and Match Game Facts



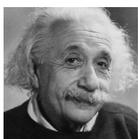
Sir Isaac Newton

Described the "three universal laws of motion" and also defined the "law of gravity."
Invented Calculus.



James Lipton

Host of the BRAVO series "Inside the Actor's Studio."
Wrote the theme song to the 1980's cartoon "Thundercats."



Albert Einstein

Developed the theory of relativity.
Classically trained concert violinist.



Bayard Rustin

Helped teach Martin Luther King, Jr. the principals of non-violent resistance.
Served 28 months in prison for refusing to join the United States Army.



Babe Ruth

One of the first five players inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame.
Kept a cabbage leaf under his cap to keep him cool.



Charles Dickens

English novelist whose characters include Oliver Twist and Ebenezer Scrooge.
Carried a compass during his travels to ensure that he always slept facing north.



Orville Wright

Co-invented the first successful airplane.
Numbered the eggs that his chickens produced so he could eat them in the order they were laid.



Harvey Milk

First openly gay person to be elected to public office.
Served as a diving officer on a submarine rescue ship.



Audre Lorde

Renowned lesbian writer who confronts issues of racism in feminist thought.
Nearsighted to the point of being legally blind.



Maya Angelou

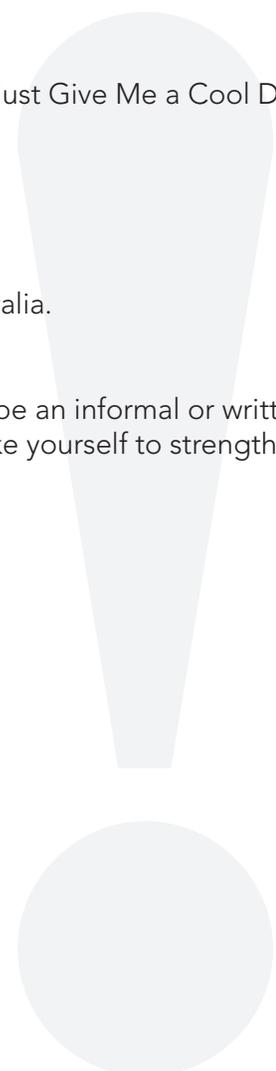
Nominated for a Pulitzer Prize in 1971 for the volume of poetry, "Just Give Me a Cool Drink of Water 'Fore I Diiiie."
Did not speak from age 8-13.



Harry Houdini

Renowned magician who became known for his escape tricks.
The first aviator to achieve a controlled, powered flight over Australia.

Please change timing to fit the needs of your classroom. The assignment may be an informal or written presentation. We look to the feedback of youth educators, workers and leaders like yourself to strengthen our programs. Please send your suggestions to info@liveoutloud.info.

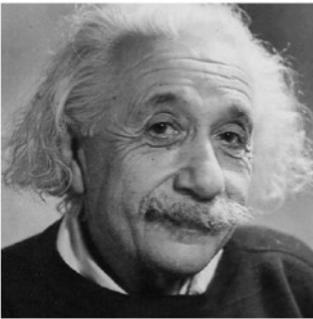


LIVE OUT

LOUD!

PRESENTS

“Find a Role Model, Be a Role Model”



ALBERT EINSTEIN



MAYA ANGELOU



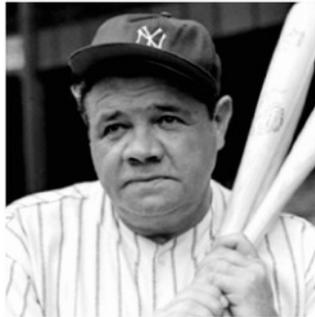
HARRY HOUDINI



SIR ISAAC NEWTON



CHARLES DICKENS



BABE RUTH



ORVILLE WRIGHT



HARVEY MILK



JAMES LIPTON



AUDRE LORDE



BAYARD RUSTIN

“Find a Role Model, Be a Role Model”

INVENTED CALCULUS.

DID NOT SPEAK FROM AGE 8-13.

HOST OF THE BRAVO SERIES
“INSIDE THE ACTOR’S STUDIO.”

KEPT A CABBAGE LEAF UNDER
HIS CAP TO KEEP HIM COOL.

NOMINATED FOR A PULITZER PRIZE IN 1971 FOR
THE VOLUME OF POETRY, “JUST GIVE ME A DRINK
OF WATER ‘FORE I DIE.”

RENOWNED LESBIAN WRITER WHO CONFRONTS
ISSUES OF RACISM IN FEMINIST THOUGHT.

HELPED TEACH MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. THE
PRINCIPALS OF NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE.

ENGLISH NOVELIST WHOSE CHARACTERS INCLUDE
OLIVER TWIST AND EBENEZER SCROOGE.

NEARSIGHTED TO THE POINT
OF BEING LEGALLY BLIND.

WROTE THE THEME SONG TO THE 1980’S
CARTOON “THUNDERCATS.”

SERVED AS A DIVING OFFICER
ON A SUBMARINE RESCUE SHIP.

CLASSICALLY TRAINED CONCERT VIOLINIST.

NUMBERED THE EGGS THAT HIS CHICKENS
PRODUCED SO HE COULD EAT THEM IN THE
ORDER THEY WERE LAID.

CARRIED A COMPASS DURING HIS TRAVELS TO
ENSURE THAT HE ALWAYS SLEPT FACING NORTH.

FIRST OPENLY GAY PERSON TO
BE ELECTED TO PUBLIC OFFICE.

DESCRIBED THE “THREE UNIVERSAL LAWS OF
MOTION” AND ALSO DEFINED THE “LAW OF
GRAVITY.”

ONE OF THE FIRST FIVE PLAYERS INDUCTED
INTO THE BASEBALL HALL OF FAME.

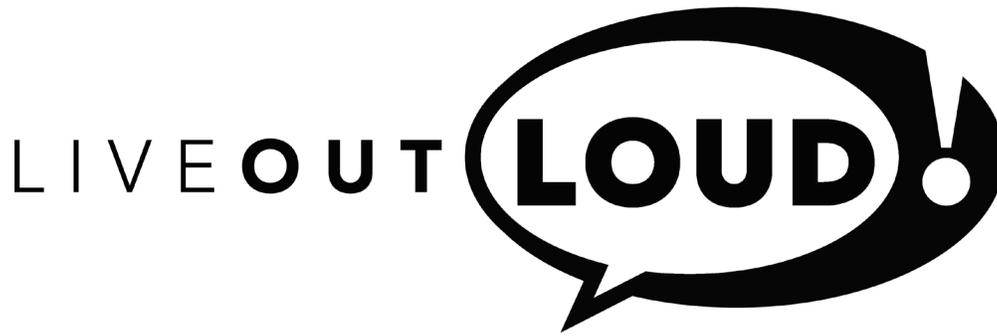
CO-INVENTED THE FIRST
SUCCESSFUL AIRPLANE.

DEVELOPED THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY.

THE FIRST AVIATOR TO ACHIEVE A CONTROLLED,
POWERED FLIGHT OVER AUSTRALIA.

RENOWNED MAGICIAN WHO BECAME
KNOWN FOR HIS ESCAPE TRICKS.

SERVED 28 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR REFUSING
TO JOIN THE UNITED STATES ARMY.



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Lesson Plan 2: Find a Role Model, Be a Role Model, Evaluation

Thanks so much for using the Live Out Loud Find A Role Model, Be A Role Model lesson plan.
We hope it was a great success!

So Live Out Loud can better serve schools like yours in the future, we would be grateful if you would complete the following evaluation. These pages can be faxed to Live Out Loud at 212-840-0505. Or, if it's easier, email your thoughts to info@LiveOutLoud.info.

Leader Evaluation

Name: _____

Email address: _____

School: _____

School Address: _____

School Phone Number: _____

Position at School: _____

Does your school have a GSA (gay-straight alliance) club? _____

What kind of group used the We Are All Minorities lesson plan? _____

How many students were involved? _____

Please rank the following: (1= do not agree to 5 = strongly agree)

	1	2	3	4	5
My students enjoyed the Warm Up Activity	<input type="checkbox"/>				
My students were engaged in the discussion time	<input type="checkbox"/>				
My students seemed motivated to action by the lesson	<input type="checkbox"/>				
The "Find A Role Model, Be A Role Model" theme was beneficial for my students	<input type="checkbox"/>				
What aspects of the Find A Role Model, Be A Role Model lesson worked well for your group?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
What aspects of the Find A Role Model, Be A Role Model lesson were less successful?	<input type="checkbox"/>				
What suggestions do you have for improvement?	<input type="checkbox"/>				