

Hate Prevention Activity

- A) **Name** Luke E.A. Lockhart
- B) **Title of Activity** This Activity Is Gay!
- C) **Ideally Used By** Student-driven social organizations, such as Greek fraternities or other groups that conduct campus social activities and have clearly identified members.
- D) **Purpose** This activity is designed to reduce the frequency of swear words and derogatory terms that specifically denigrate homosexuality, and to replace them with terms more appropriate to attacking ideas and things and not groups of people.
- E) **Materials Required** Posters, sheets of paper, or other sorts of items that can be displayed around campus, at chapter houses, or in other public locations, as well as ability to print and mount these posters or sheets of paper.
- F) **Permissions Required** This activity will require permission to post materials which may seem disruptive and/or controversial.
- G) **Advance Preparation** Student leaders attempting to engage in this activity must have the clear consensus of their organization behind them, since they will be posting potentially controversial materials around campus that are designed to mimic hate speech (but do not actually act as hate speech.) They also need to make sure that members of their organization are prepared to speak on behalf of the initiative.
- a. Student leaders should suggest this initiative/activity at a general meeting of the organization, and develop a clear consensus that this is something the group wants to do.
 - b. Members of the organization must all be briefed on the purpose of the initiative.

- i. As many members as possible should be aware of the specific intent and nature of the initiative, and should be ready to explain it to outsiders; all must be informed and at least able to refer questions to someone who is informed.

H) Conducting the Activity

- a. The organization conducting this initiative will print posters or signs to put up, either specifically at their chapter house or team area (if it is frequented by outsiders) or around campus (with proper permissions).
 - i. These signs will identify the organization with some sort of nonsense insulting term, for example “Delta Tau Chi house are a bunch of pasta-eaters,” or “the Speech team hammers nails.” In order to drive the point across that nonsensical group names are being used to insult the group, a number of insulting terms should be developed and put on the posters, possible with pictures of the organization as a group, or of specific members, doing something stupid, “jerkish”, or annoying – but very pointedly *not* related to the insult on the poster.
 - ii. The bottom of the signs will read “Use Intelligent Insults – Ask a [Group Member] Today!”
- b. If asked and/or confronted about the signs, group members should explain the intention of the activity.
 - i. The purpose of the initiative is to make the point that insults, such as “cock-sucker” or “gay,” particularly when used to denigrate someone for

nothing relating to being gay or lesbian, promote discrimination and don't really get their message across.

1. The organization member, after explaining this, can hand out literature suggesting some other terms for attacking things; for example, "this test is really freaking hard," or, "that movie was badly acted," instead of "this test must have been written by a faggot," or "that film was gay."

I) Follow-Up Options

- a. The organization can hold a party celebrating tolerance, and also rhetorically enacting it; group members could appear intentionally defying some social norm in a non-caricature sort of way, perhaps wearing the symbol of another religion or an article of clothing from another gender.
- b. The group could set up a website and ask people to submit insults that don't denigrate particular groups and "tell it like it is."

J) This event may be considered for use by Students Against Violence Everywhere.