

Appendix 10G

Homework Assignments for after Module 2

These homework assignments ask participants to carry their new awareness about transgender identities and experiences into their interaction with the world. Depending on the needs of the group, select an assignment from this list, or you may choose to develop one of your own.

Homework A

Look for media images (in magazines, books, films, TV shows, Web sites) that depict transgender people in a positive light. What did you find? How is this a positive image? How might the depiction be ambiguous? How easy or difficult was it to find positive images?

Homework B

Everywhere that you go between now and our next meeting, find out if there is a gender-neutral restroom available. If you do not see one, ask. If they do not have one, ask why not. Notice how people react to your questions. Notice your own thoughts and feeling. If participants decide not to ask people about gender-neutral bathrooms, they can reflect on the reasons for their decision and that will fulfill the assignment. Note: This assignment may bring up safety issues, especially for people with non-conforming gender expression. Remind participants that their safety comes first.

Homework C (if there are at least several days in between Module 2 and Module 3)

Each day keep a journal noting in broad terms what you did that day. First write down what you can think of that was gendered or that transgressed gender norms. Reflect on whether these were intentional actions or actions that you were not aware of until you thought about them. Then write down some thoughts about how your experience that day would have been different if you were transgender. What would you have done

differently? Would there have been any limitations? How would others have treated you? What would have been particular challenges?

Homework D (make sure that participants focus on both MTF and FTM identity in their searches)

Have the participants utilize the Internet for a type of scavenger hunt. Break the participants into four groups. Each group will be asked to search for specific information about transgender identity. (a) Seek information on Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) including cost, locations, and health insurance coverage. (b) Seek information about transgender legal rights including job protection, adoption, and marriage. Be sure to have participants look for federal, state, and individual corporation information on protection and/or inclusion. (c) Utilize search engines (Google, Yahoo!, MSN, etc.) to find personal Web sites that share individual experiences of transgender people and their families. (d) Choose school Web sites (K-12 and higher education) that provide information on support for transgender students, faculty, and staff. Try to determine what specific resources are available. Remember that a group or policy that uses the language “GLBT” may or may not address transgender concerns.