

Staff Response to Proposed Changes to Grade 10 Lesson “Respect for Differences in Human Sexuality” by Citizens Advisory Committee on Family Life and Human Sexuality

#	Committee Recommendation	Staff Response
<u>Session 1</u>		
1	On Page 2, Vocabulary, change the definition of “gender identity” to “a person determines his or her gender identity based on the gender he or she feels to be inside”	Agree with modification. Gender identity—your identification of yourself as a man or a woman based on the gender you feel to be inside. (Glencoe and Holt)
2	On Page 2, Vocabulary, add the term “sexual identity” defined as “The way you act, your personality, how you feel about yourself because you are male or female—all of these are part of your sexual identity.” (Glencoe)	Agree with modification. Sexual identity—the way you act, your personality, and how you feel about yourself because you are male or female. (Glencoe)
3	On Page 2, Vocabulary, replace “intersexual” with “intersex” (or add as a secondary term in parentheses) and the definition with “One having both male and female sexual characteristics and organs; at birth an unambiguous assessment of male or female cannot be made.”	Agree with modifications. Add “intersex” in parentheses after “intersexual,” and retain Holt definition. Also add: “Any individual who has anatomic characteristics of both sexes or whose external genitalia are ambiguous.” (Mosby’s Medical Dictionary, 2006)
4	On Pages 2 and 6, Vocabulary, add definition of “Homophobia” consistent with text.	Agree. Add “Homophobia—“an extreme or irrational aversion to homosexuality and homosexual people.” (Random House Webster’s Dictionary, 2001)
5	On Page 4, Student Resource Activator Sheet, add to the lesson to make it clear that: “holding an unpopular view is not in itself prejudice.” Y-10, N-0, A-2	Agree with modification. Change definition of prejudice on page 2 in Sessions 1 and 2 and to pages 11 and 16 in Session 2 to “preconceived opinion, not based on reason or experience; dislike, hostility, or unjust behavior formed on such a basis.” (Oxford American Collegiate Dictionary 2002). This definition excludes labeling an unpopular view as prejudice.
6	On Page 6, Vocabulary Activator, replace “transgender” with “_____” in definition “g” so that the definition does not contain the defined word.	Agree. Change answer “g” to: “Individual whose gender identity, characteristics, or expressions differ from most people of that person’s gender.” (Holt)
7	Accept the Holt text excerpt in its entirety.	Agree. No change required

8	<p>In the lesson, add to the teacher resource information sheet: “If you are unsure, it is unwise to rush to label yourself during this formative time.”</p>	<p>Agree. On page 4, in the section <i>Extend by</i> under first bullet, Answering questions for clarification, add indented bullet: “If students ask how to determine their own sexual orientation, say, ‘Individuals at your age may be unsure of their sexual orientation. It is unwise to rush to label yourself during this formative time.’” (AAP)</p>
9	<p>In the lesson, add a teacher resource information sheet containing the following information for presentation to students:</p> <p>“Other things to know:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ “Children who have fleeting same-sex attractions may assume incorrectly that they are gay or lesbian. Mere fleeting attraction does not prove sexual orientation.” ▪ “All mainstream medical and mental health professionals have concluded that homosexuality is not a disease or a mental illness.” [referenced at Compendium pp. 3, 27-28] ▪ “The American Academy of Pediatrics says that most experts have concluded that ‘one’s sexual orientation is not a choice; that is, individuals do not choose to be homosexual or heterosexual.’ Moreover, according to the American Psychological Association, sexual orientation is not a ‘conscious choice that can voluntarily be changed.’ Similarly, the American Medical Association opposes ‘therapies’ that seek to change sexual orientation that are premised on the assumption that homosexuality is an illness and that people should change. [referenced at Compendium pp. 3, 27, 1] ▪ “Homosexuals can live happy, successful lives; they ‘can be successful parents.’ [referenced at Compendium pp. 6, 27-28] ▪ “Children raised by same-sex couples do just as well as those raised by heterosexuals, and are no more likely to be homosexual.” [referenced at Compendium 28] 	<p>Disagree. The recommended new material does not align with target indicators and objectives for the lesson.</p>
10	<p>In the lesson, add the following: “An individual has the right to label him or herself but others should not label individuals based on appearance or behavior.”</p>	<p>Agree, with modification. On page 4, in section <i>Extend by</i> under first bullet Answering questions for clarification, add a second indented bullet: “If students ask how a person can determine another’s sexual orientation, say, ‘Individuals have the right to label themselves but others should not label individuals based on appearance or behavior.’” (AAP)</p>

11	In the lesson, add the following: “Civil expressions of disapproval of homosexual behavior out of sincere religious, moral, or health-related concerns should not be labeled as homophobia.”	Agree with modification. On page 2, Vocabulary, add definition of homophobia as, “an extreme or irrational aversion to homosexuality and homosexual people.” (Random House Webster’s Dictionary, 2001). This definition of homophobia excludes civil expressions of disagreement.
12	In the lesson, add the following: “The American Psychological Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend the support group Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG).”	Disagree. This recommendation does not align with target indicators and objectives for the lesson.
13	On Page 10, MCPS Policy Excerpts, add a bullet at the bottom of the page stating: “MCPS will investigate all allegations and take appropriate disciplinary action when MCPS policies are violated.”	Agree with modification. “When students report incidents, MCPS will investigate human relations concerns and complaints of discrimination. (Policy ACA and Policy ACB)”
14	On Page 10, MCPS Policy Excerpts, add specific information on how to report an incident at school and include copies of any appropriate forms.	Agree with modification. Students will be informed, using the statement in item 13.
15	On Page 11, Student Resource Activities Sheet, change question III. B. to: “What are some advantages and disadvantages to revealing one’s sexual orientation and/or gender identity?”	Agree. Revise question as recommended.
<u>Session 2</u>		
16	On Page 9, Student Resource Activities Sheet, change “sexual identity” to “gender identity.”	Agree. Make recommended change.
17	On Pages 9, 13 and 15, Student Resource Activities Sheet and other pages, change the pronoun references to “Portia” from male to female.	Agree. Make recommended change.
18	On Page 10, Student Resource Checking for Understanding Sheet, change the first question to: “What are two challenges gay teens may face in the process of coming out?”	Agree with modification: “Using examples from the text, what are two challenges gay teens may face in the process of coming out?”
19	On Page 10, Student Resource Checking for Understanding Sheet, change the second question to “What are two benefits of coming out?”	Agree with modification: “Using examples from the text, what are two benefits of coming out?”
20	On Page 11, fix typographical error “state <u>of</u> quality” to “or”.	Agree.