“Navigating Spaces: Moving Along the (Dis)enfranchisement Spectrum through a High School GSA”

Cailey Underhill

This paper identifies the components needed for new organizations to create programs that support inclusivity and enfranchisement by working within pre-existing power structures. The researcher considers how to bring to bear the resources of those already in positions of power to provide a voice for those without a means of advocating for themselves. While this paper seeks to provide a model for success across multiple modalities, the research focuses on enfranchisement within educational contexts through the development of a high school GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance). Seen through this lens, the researcher has identified four key elements necessary for progress towards enfranchisement. [Article copies available for a fee from The Transformative Studies Institute. E-mail address: journal@transformativestudies.org Website: http://www.transformativestudies.org ©2017 by The Transformative Studies Institute. All rights reserved.]

KEYWORDS: Disenfranchisement, Inclusivity, High School GSA, LGBTQ+.

For Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, and other individuals (LGBTQ+), many facets of society in the United States

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