Straight Not Narrow:
Ten Simple Things You Can Do
to Help Gay Students Succeed

1. **Love Is All You Need** - just remember, it's all about love, not just sex, politics, AIDS, and parades: recognize preference! Ask "Is there someone special?"

2. **The 10% Solution** - acknowledge that one of every ten students you work with is lesbian or gay: gay/lesbian (invisible) minority in any campus or classroom!

3. **The Name Game** - learn to say the "G" word and the "L" word comfortably; now try LGBTQ: Lesbian, Gay, E Transgender/Transsexual, Queer and Questioning!

4. **Don't Ask; Do Tell** - don't ask students to tell you if they're gay; don't assume you "know": do mention gay f colleagues, celebrities you admire!

5. **Pronoun Power** - use gender-neutral terms in describing your own relationships (and others): say partner, special someone, friend!

6. **Diversify Diversity** - include gay issues and identities in all discussions of cultural diversity; gay people are ethnic groups, religions, classes, and cultures!

7. **Relax, Breathe, Smile** - observe your own body language and non-verbal cues: you won't catch "cooties" just by talking with someone who's gay!

8. **Fight the Fear Factor** learn to acknowledge, understand, and overcome homophobia: ask why you fear some gay people; ask why some gay people might fear you!

9. **Stop Anti-Gay Humor** don't let anti-gay remarks, jokes, or stereotypes go unchallenged: would you ever let racist or blatantly sexist joke in class?

10. **Create Safe Space** imagine a more inclusive campus (Will and Grace, Ellen, and You); put gay-friendly boo images in your office or classroom!

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Books and Websites:

501 Great Things About Being Gay by Edward Taussig
Loving Someone Gay by Donald H. Clark and Don Clark
Two Teenagers in Twenty: Writings by Gay & Lesbian Youth edited by Ann Heron

[www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org) Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (national organization and local chapters)
[www.planetout.com](http://www.planetout.com) News and views from the lesbian and gay community
[www.gsanetwork.org](http://www.gsanetwork.org) Bay Area network of Gay/Straight Alliances at local high schools