# **Overview of topic**

• Students will learn about gender and gender identity in both the past and present. Students will be presented with primary source documents that detail the experiences of non-cis people and the history of gender in the United States.

State standards		
Standard - CC.1.5.11-12.A	Initiate and participate effectively in a range of collaborative discussions on grade-level topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.	
Standard - 5.2.12.B	Examine the causes of conflicts in society and evaluate techniques to address those conflicts	

### **Lesson Objectives**

- Have students work with primary source materials to understand the lives of non-cis people and the history of gender
- Help to develop skills such as critical thinking and public speaking through discussions on gender
- Educate students on modern and historical issues facing communities

Topic 1: History of Gender and Gender identity in the United States		
Topic Intro	Discussion question: What is the difference between gender and sex? How do you understand transgender and gender nonconformity?	
Sex versus Gender	<ul> <li>Discuss the medical definitions of sex         <ul> <li>Play excerpts from Joe Christ</li> <li>Oral History (linked below)</li> <li>Delve into history of Gender in the</li> <li>USA</li> <li>Go over terminology section of Gender Identity and Gender</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Sex is the physical and biological aspects of a person that is assigned at birth. These can include the hormones, chromosomes, and

Expression in Central PA reproductive anatomy section of a person at birth. Gender Id and Expression in Gender, on the other Central PA hand, is a social o DSM and DSM-4 definition of construction that is gender identity disorder based on roles, ■ Discussion break: What expectations, and behaviors. How one changed between the DSM-4 and the DSM-5 expresses their socially? gender or identifies does not have to Show copy of DSM-IV-TR relate to their sex Diagnostic Criteria for assigned at birth. (refer to the Gender Identity terminology page for Disorder (Copied more information on below) GCOSM Agenda and Minutes source gender expression). Gender and its perception has changed over time. Until 2016, not conforming to the sex one was assigned at birth was considered a mental illness (refer to DSM-4 diagnostic criteria and GCOSM agenda). Transgender Jeannine Ruhsam oral history clips Jeanine Ruhsam **Experiences** Joanne Carol oral history clips timestamps: Dewey's Counter Sit In (refer to 1:40-3:49 museum webpage) 32:00-33:22 **Discussion Ouestion:** In regards to the 40:02-42:42 Jeanine Rusham clips, how were her 59.00-1.05.05 experiences as an activist informed by Joanne Carol her youth? How can we see a shift in timestamps: the trans community and 0:55-2:51 understanding of being trans through 5:37-6:49 her story? 10:45-11:21 Discussion Question: How did religion 20:00-20:52 play a role in Joanne Carol's transition experience? How do you think growing up being told your identity is wrong would affect the acceptance of said identity?

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	<u>Discussion Question:</u> Reflect on the clips we watched. How are Jeanine and Joanne's stories similar and different?	
Impersonation in the Civil War and beyond	<ul> <li>Discussion Question: Why might have male entertainers begin to dress like women? How do we see the remnants of these shows in the modern era?</li> <li>Julian Etlinge         <ul> <li>Review provided photos with students</li> </ul> </li> <li>Benedict A. Wesley Trautwein         <ul> <li>Performer from PA</li> <li>Photos from Dickinson Archive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Julian Etlinge is considered to be the 'queen' of modern drag. He spearheaded the popularity of people 'cross dressing' and popularized drag as a form of entertainment.  Benedict Trautwein is a drag queen from Central PA. Review the photos with students and have them discuss them. Have students analyze the time period in which the photos are from and go back to previous discussions about trans acceptance during the time. How might drag be confused for being trans gender, what with very little understanding of what being trans was at the time. How might drag at the time reflect cultural norms?

Topic 2: Drag and its role in the LGBTQIA+ movement	
Intro to Topic	Discussion Question: What is your experience with drag? Have you ever seen a drag queen/ what do you know about drag?

History of Drag	<ul> <li>William Dorset Swann: The Queen of Drag         <ul> <li>Former slave</li> <li>No photos exist (why might this be?)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Grand Rag</li> </ul>	
Drag in Central PA	William "Miss Tina" Horn Oral History Clips <u>Discussion Question:</u> Miss Tina goes into depth about her experience as a drag queen in the 70s. How do you think her experience reflects the mindset of the time? Lily White article and discussion	Miss Tina Oral History Timestamps: 3:40-10:00 17:30-19:44 25:10-26:55
Exclusion of Drag Queens from the LGBT community	<ul> <li>Return to Miss Tina Oral History</li> <li>Association of Drag and Transgender         <ul> <li>What is the difference? Why is it harmful to equate the two?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Discussion Question: Why might Drag Queens not have been accepted by the LGBT community?</li> </ul>	Planned Parenthood argues that associating drag and transgender is harmful to the trans community. It argues that, by associating the two, we are implying that being trans is a performance that people can choose to turn on and off at a moment's notice. By equating the trans experience with that of drag queens, we are contributing to a narrative that trans people are making a choice, when in reality it is not a choice.

Topic 3: Gender in the 2000s (where do we go from here?)	
Intro to Topic	<u>Discussion Question:</u> How do you think social awareness around gender and identity has changed? How do you think we can continue to change the narrative around gender?

Conservative and <u>leftist</u> responses to gender inclusivity	<ul> <li>TERFS (Trans Exclusionary Radical Feminists)</li> <li>Bathroom Laws</li> <li>School Rules about changing pronouns/ preferred name</li> <li>Anti-trans laws</li> </ul>
What can YOU do	<ul> <li>Dedicating ourselves to educating others</li> <li>Learn from History</li> </ul>
Activism in the modern era	<ul> <li>Keystone Conference</li> <li>TransCentral PA</li> <li>DEI and Title VII (Obama and Biden Administration)         <ul> <li>Bostock v. Clayton County under Trump Administration</li> </ul> </li> <li>2016 Expansion of protections for LGBTQ+ state employees under governor Tom Wolf</li> </ul>
Closing Remarks	"We live in a stressful time for LGBT people. Amongst trans people, especially youth, there are scary implications surrounding the expression of their identity. In a study done by the Trevor Project, "among 13-17 year olds, two years after anti-trans laws took effect, the likelihood of a past-year suicide attempt was 72% higher than it was before passage," (Simmons-Duffin). At times like this, it can feel hopeless. That is why it is important to remember the past. This is not a new issue- it is one many have faced before. When people in the past were faced with persecution and discrimination, they turned to their communities. The importance of a community cannot be understated. Communities do not have to be broad, they can be the one or two people that you hold closest to you. The most important thing, no matter how scary things may seem, is to be there for each other."

## **Primary Source List**

Miss Tina- Oral History

Lily-White 1993-08 0.pdf

Joe Christ- Oral History

GCOSM Agenda-and-Minutes-1976-05-27.pdf

Joanne Carroll- Oral History

Jeanine Rusham- Oral History

Wesley in Red Floral Dress - December 1974 | Dickinson College

Wesley with dog in Patterned Chair - December 1974 | Dickinson College

#### ON PROFESSIONAL STAGE.

Julian D. Effinge, Famous Impersonator of Female Roles, To Abandon Amateur Work.





## **Other Sources**

<u>Study links anti-trans laws to an increase in trans teen suicide attempts : Shots - Health News : NPR</u>

Is drag the same as transgender?