



“I love my human rights” series: Brandon Yan’s story Conversation Guide

Introduction

This guide has been prepared to assist groups (businesses, organizations, classrooms) explore themes in the “I love my human rights” series. In Brandon Yan’s film he shares the importance of identity, representation and joy. Use the questions provided to explore the film’s themes in a group setting.

Getting started

Take steps to ensure that participants feel safe and comfortable to express themselves. Follow the below guidelines to create a safe space for dialogue:

1. The purpose of this conversation is to listen and learn from one another.
Set agreements to create a safe space, mutual respect, and deep listening to what others share. Say them out loud, such as: Truly listen, be present, and appreciate the group.
2. Decide ways for everyone to participate, and to be heard. For example, consider speaking in a circle so that quieter members have opportunity to share their thoughts fully.
3. Take breaks. Stop for tea, snacks, and laughter.

Open the conversation

Choose the three questions that speak to you.

- What aspect of your identity makes you feel proudest?
- Can you recall the first time you felt represented in your surroundings?
- What sorts of feelings did the images and pictures in the film invoke for you?
- Tell us about a time you were generous.
- Can you recall if you have ever felt that you were not represented by your surroundings?

Deepen the conversation

- In the film, Brandon unpacked the term model minority in his own words. How do you think this term affects the ability for people to fully express themselves?
- How often/deeply do you interact with people of a different racial/ethnic identity than your own? What is the nature of these relationships and interactions?
- As yourself the question Brandon posed: “What would it be like to be your full self?”
- Why is it important to talk about and celebrate “queer joy?”

Bring the conversation to a close

- Brandon states that the more you know yourself, the more you are able to advocate for your community.” How will you advocate for your community or others?
- What makes you feel happy and safe? (i.e. a person, a place, a feeling)