

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
LESBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER RESOURCE CENTER

Situation Exercise (25 min.)

Directions: Clear the room. Participants must imagine the room is a giant opinion scale with one end labeled very safe, the middle unsure, and the other end of the room very unsafe. Ask participants to imagine how safe they think it is for typical LGBT college students to be out in a variety of settings.

Ask for volunteers to tell you how they happened to stand where they are (avoid saying "why" as this can be experienced as judgmental). Summarize their comments, if necessary, so that everyone in the room can hear them. Try to get participants to share from various points on the continuum -- even the neutral participants.

Settings include:

- On campus
- At a gay or lesbian bar
- At the campus gym
- At a movie theater with their partner
- Walking down Trousdale to their class
- At a Pride parade
- At a party on the row
- In a classroom
- At a football game
- At a restaurant
- At a family event
- Living in a residence hall
- Hanging out with friends
- At work
- As a new student at orientation
- Visiting their physician

Discussion:

- Ask participants to discuss how they felt moving their locations for each settings.
- Facilitator should ask how these opinions may change for a bisexual person. Facilitator should point out biphobia in both heterosexual and gay/lesbian communities and particular difficulties some bisexual people experience.
- How might reactions differ for people of color?
- How might reactions differ for transgender people?

- What have participants learned about being LGBT in common settings or areas?