



Space Agreements

Having a set of agreements to guide your interactions will help ensure that your meetings are respectful and provide a safe place for everyone.

ASSUME NOTHING—EXCEPT FOR BEST INTENTIONS.

No one should make assumptions about anyone else's identities or experiences. The only assumption people should make is that when other participants speak, they are speaking with the best intentions and do not mean to offend anyone.

CORRECT GENTLY, BUT DO CORRECT.

If a participant says something that is incorrect or offensive, politely address what was said. Letting comments slip by only makes the space less safe and increases the difficulty of building successful partnerships.

DON'T "YUCK MY YUM."

When group members share their likes and dislikes, respect their personal opinions and preferences.

USE "I" STATEMENTS.

Everyone should speak only for themselves, instead of assuming their statement applies to multiple members of the group.

AVOID MAKING GENERALIZATIONS.

Don't make blanket statements about any groups of people. In addition to members of the LGBTQ community, this also includes political parties, religious groups, socioeconomic classes, age ranges, etc. If you're not sure that something you want to say is factually correct, phrase it as a question.

ONE MIC, ONE VOICE.

Only one person should speak at a time.

MAKE SPACE, TAKE SPACE.

Participants should be aware of how much they are speaking. If you notice you are speaking a lot, let others speak. If you notice you haven't spoken and if you feel safe doing so, try to contribute some comments, ideas or suggestions.

RESPECT CONFIDENTIALITY.

What's shared here stays here, and what's learned here leaves here. The comments and personal stories people choose to share should remain private, and you should not disclose anyone's identity who was at the meeting without their explicit consent. However, if there are things you learned about the world at large during a meeting, feel free to carry those things with you.

LEAN INTO DISCOMFORT.

Meetings and topics can sometimes be challenging. Be willing to experience some discomfort in discussions, and learn from it as a team!

UPHOLD COMMITMENTS.

The key to a safe and successful team is honoring your commitments to the group. If you cannot follow through with a commitment, make sure to let others know and find someone to take your place.

PERSONALIZE THESE AGREEMENTS.

When you're in a group setting, go over these agreements and give folks the opportunity to add to or change these agreements to suit the needs of your group.



For more information and to check out all of our GSA resources and programming, visit www.glsen.org/gsa. If you have questions or need support, send us an email at students@glse.org. To learn more about glsen, head to www.glsen.org, or find us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter @glse.
