

## Why There Needs to be More Transgender Visibility

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### Abstract

*As a transgender student, I feel that there needs to be more transgender visibility in order to better our society and to establish equal rights. The purpose of this work is to shine a positive light on the transgender community and to address the problems transgender people face when being open about their gender identity. I plan on designing an infographic poster to display on campus to educate the Millersville community about the transgender community. As a result, I hope that because this is a visual aid, people will be more inclined to read it. The goal is for them to do more research about the trans community to learn why it is important to accept trans people for who we are. This means that more trans people will be accepted in society and will hopefully have more equal rights as well as feeling safe enough to be open and proud about their gender identity.*

I have always been interested in LGBTQIA+ issues and events growing up. I thought pride parades and drag shows must be so much fun. Little did I know that one day I would be coming out to the world first as a lesbian, then as a transgender man. I feel it is important to include both coming outs because not everyone talks about coming out more than once. While coming to terms and accepting my “trans-ness,” I became enthralled with the trans community on YouTube and social media. I thought it was great getting to know more trans people just like me, but it soon became apparent to me that not everything was sunshine and rainbows for trans people.

With this project, I hope to educate people about the trans community. I think the best way to convey what I want to say and what I want people to learn is through an infographic. Most people understand

information when it is conveyed through graphics and images. Displaying statistics and information in a visual way will attract more people to read and pay attention to the information shown.

While immersing myself into the trans community, I came across articles and stories of trans people being discriminated against, harassed, and murdered. I felt sick to my stomach. I didn’t want to believe that people felt so strongly and acted violently towards people like me. I felt unsafe and like I had to hide the fact that I was transgender.

As time went on, I felt more comfortable with my identity and took comfort in the positive stories of trans people. Some of these stories include trans youth coming out to their parents and being accepted, and trans people starting to

transition medically, which is something I look forward to doing in the future. Something that came to my attention after reading and watching these stories was that the media doesn't really talk about trans kids being accepted and supported.

When I see trans people in the news, it's because they were murdered or there was an anti-transgender bill introduced. I thought that if people knew about the positive trans stories, parents would be more accepting, trans kids would be bullied less, and maybe trans women would stop being killed. I want to spread the positive facts and stories of trans people and that is where the idea for this project came from. I want to share positive trans experiences with people and educate them about what transgender is because many people still don't know or understand what it means. I think having more positive visibility of trans people will

increase acceptance and with more acceptance, we will feel safer to be out and proud.

That being said, we can't ignore the risks and dangers trans people are facing right now. In 2018, there were 26 transgender deaths from fatal violence in the United States. The majority of these victims were black trans women (Human Rights Campaign, 2019). That is why transgender visibility is so important. There are so many trans stories the media doesn't talk about, like the deaths of trans people and parents accepting transgender children. It is a privilege to share my story and the stories of the trans people that came before me to make a better and safer society for transgender kids in the future. It is us, it is now, that we must make our voices heard, to educate and fight for the rights as transgender individuals in the United States.

## References

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