

Queering the School

As we read in our text, queer theory attempts to merge theory and activism to critique and create new identities and possibilities. What better opportunity to practice using queer theory as both a lens and a tool than to design your own anti-oppressive school!

In your working groups, use the questions below as a guide to construct and design an anti-oppressive school. We would encourage you to use your group's focus as a starting point to designing the school. Also, this project should be applicable to your interests, so please adjust any of the questions as you see fit.

Again, we recommend that you utilize the readings as a guide, but outside sources are welcome and appreciated! Feel free to use your personal laptops or those provided to complete this assignment.

Guided Questions:

How is the school structured? What does administration look like?

What do classroom norms look like?

How are student voices included?

What kind of policies, leadership, structures does your school envision? What do disciplinary/restorative practices look like?

What does staff/teacher/faculty training look like?

Are there ways that schools/universities could advocate for queer students through partnerships and policies related to LGBTQI individuals?

What physical design elements would be present?

What would be prioritized in the curriculum? What would get cut?

What does the school sound like? Smell like? Feel like?

How are parents/guardians/families integrated into the school?

Higher Education-Specific

What would your housing policies be?

How would executive level administration be selected?

What do formal/informal support structures look like? How do they complement each other?

How would you support students as well as university/state policies?

Class-Specific

What are ways that your groups' question/unit topic/focus could integrate with Queer Studies?