

How **Gay** Are Your Gene?

A suggested format for an informal, discussion-based workshop:

1. Open your workshop with an ice-breaker. Ask each participant to introduce themselves and briefly say how they identify (i.e. as L, G, B or T). Some people may not feel comfortable doing this so they may wish instead to say when (if they have) come out; otherwise ask the participant how the question makes them feel. This ice-breaker perfectly illustrates just how diverse we are under our shared LGBT banner.
2. Use the worksheets in numerical order to kick start debate and encourage participants to share their views and ideas.
3. Use the **HEADLINES** worksheet and **SCIENCE AND THE SINGLE MAN** to open a debate on how the media portrays the whole concept of the "gay gene".
4. What conclusions – if any – do the group come to? Is the idea of a "gay gene" a good or bad thing? Or is it not that easy to define or decide? How do people *feel* about this debate and what, personally, does it mean to them?
5. Are people interested to be involved in the future? In autumn/winter of 2005 we will be holding a series of workshops covering various aspects of this debate. Encourage people to get in touch with Lisa Matthews at PEALS.

NOTES FOR THE FACILITATOR