

Texas A&M University Coming Out Monologues

The coming out monologues features stories from different identities within the GLBT community

Guidelines

Time Limit: 5-7 minutes

Approximate page length: 3-5 double-spaced pages, 11 point font Times New Roman

*You are **not** required to perform your monologue. If you choose, someone else can perform in your place, and you may remain anonymous. Submission of a monologue **does not** guarantee inclusion in the performance.*

Writing Your Monologue

Generating Ideas

Free-write as much as you can or want on any (or all) topics. The point isn't writing a perfect finished draft of a monologue—you just want to get as much written as possible so you have a lot to work with.

Past and Possible Topics:

- What gives you hope?
- Coming out to parents, friends, yourself
- "Going in" i.e. hiding in the closet
- First crush
- What frustrates you?
- What makes you feel free?
- First kiss
- Going to college
- When did you know? When did you admit it to yourself?
- What do you wish more people knew?
- What are your hobbies?
- Best day of your life? Worst day?
- How has the community affected you?
- Getting involved in the community
- What is important to you?
- Stereotypes you want to break
- What do you want to tell future generations? Older generations?

First Draft

Your monologue is not your entire life story—there's definitely not enough time for that. Focus on a key experience or set of related experiences.

This is a great opportunity to educate others through your own experience. A monologue isn't a research paper. Feel free to throw in a few facts or a bit of history—but only if it is relevant to your

story. TCOM puts faces to stories and humanizes GLBT experiences. You are using “I statements,” speaking for yourself, not a community (Examples: “I think” “I feel” “In my experience”).

Write like you are telling a story to a friend or group of friends. Pretending you are writing a letter may help.

Don’t worry that this draft isn’t perfect. First drafts *never* are. Just write! If you need some help, check out Anne Lamott’s essay “Shitty First Drafts.” (Available as a PDF online)

Individual Revision

Read your writing out loud.

- What feels awkward to say?
- Where could your phrases be longer? Shorter?
- What parts do you like?
- What parts feel like filler?
- Where does your story really start? (Maybe your last line should be your first line)

What message do you want to send? What tone are you aiming for? (Funny, sad, angry, hopeful)

Where do you feel confident? Where do you need help? Do you have any specific questions you want to ask people about what you’ve written?

Group Revision

During the spring semester we will have group revision sessions at the GLBT Resource Center.

If you want to show your writing to someone for critique, here are a few guiding questions to ask:

- 1) What message do you get from this piece?
- 2) What lines had an emotional impact?
- 3) What was your favorite part and why?
- 4) How was the pacing?
- 5) What was the tone like?
- 6) What parts didn’t fit?
- 7) How is the order/progression of the piece?

Submission

You can email your monologue to: (Insert Email Address)

