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Using role play to build tolerance among adolescents with regard to homosexuality. A case study of Supreme Educational College, South Africa

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Abstract

This Practice led Research Report explores the use of role play in influencing tolerance building towards homosexuality among a selected group of adolescents. There appears to be no recorded documentation of drama projects that seek to engage adolescents in a bid to build tolerance towards homosexuality. Most of the projects undertaken with regard to homosexuality have largely focused on empowering homosexuals especially with regard to coming out and demanding their rights (Avert 1997). There has not been much effort in engaging the general public, especially the non homosexual populations, towards tolerance.

This research sought to use role play to engage the selected adolescents in drama workshops aimed at building tolerance because role play has exhibited potential to engage learners emotionally while maintaining a safe learning environment (Jensen, 2008). Of particular interest to this research was the relationship between emotions and social learning activities. This research sought to address homophobia among South African adolescents because despite the legal framework in place, the adolescents have exhibited little or no tolerance towards their peers (Van der Hoven, A. & Maree, A. 2005).

This research report, which forms the final part of the research, argues for various role play techniques that, when used in a process oriented manner,

have vast potential to influence the building of tolerance towards homosexuality.

Chapter One introduces this Practice led Research Report. Chapter Two explores the different perspectives on homosexuality as well as its historical development in South Africa. Chapter Three examines the Adolescent stage of human development in relation to the research participants. Chapter Four explores the theoretical perspectives on tolerance. Chapter Five takes a critical look at role play, its evolvement, rationale and the various techniques. Chapter Six is about the presentation and analysis of the research data and workshops. Chapter Seven gives a general conclusion and the implication of the research findings.