



## CONVERSATION STARTERS

Having trouble figuring out how to start your Tell 3 conversations? Here are a few suggestions of how to get started.

### **Direct Approach**

For the bold among us, the best way to start a conversation could be to just dive in. "I want to talk to you about how being gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender affects my life."

### **Preamble**

If you like the direct approach, but think it will seem like it's coming out of the blue, try talking about why you want to have the conversation first. "I've been thinking about the last election lately..." or "We're good friends, but we've never really talked about..."

### **The Caveat**

If you feel awkward or uncomfortable with this type of conversation, it might help to throw that out there at the beginning. Something like "I don't normally talk about this..." or "This is a little weird for me to talk about..." can do a lot to set yourself – and the person you talk to – at ease.

### **A Planned Segue**

Is there a topic that you're pretty sure you and the person you want to tell will talk about? You can probably figure out a way to transition from that topic to your conversation. For a sports fan, say "Ever notice how there aren't really any out gay football/baseball/basketball players?" For a person just back from a cruise, say "I've always wanted to go to the Carribean, but I've heard some of those islands are really homophobic." For a film buff, ask about their take on the latest LGBT-related film.

### **Current Events**

Talking about an issue that's in the news, then transitioning into your own personal experience can be an easy way to sneak into these conversations. Both GLAAD (<http://www.glaad.org>) and the ACLU's LGBT Project (<http://gbge.aclu.org>) have excellent roundups of the latest in LGBT news.

### **Blame Us!**

"I was looking at this web site the other day that said it was important for LGBT people to talk to their straight friends about what being LGBT means to them. It made me realize that we've never really talked about it..."