Lesson Plan

Level 1: Contributions Approach
1. Activate Prior Experience: What do you know about Marsha P. Johnson?
2. Read the biography above and additional resources at https://legacyprojectchicago.org/person/marsha-p-johnson. Why was Johnson’s involvement in the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (S.T.A.R.) in the 70’s important?
   Group Discussion: The Gay Liberation Front advocated for civil rights protections for sexual minorities. Why? Do you think GLF failed Transgender people? Why or why not?
4. Extend Knowledge: Are you able to identify a Transgender African American activist in our society today? Explain their impact on our society.

Level 2: Additive Approach
2. What qualities did Johnson exhibit while living on the streets? Describe the types of things she experienced.
3. Website Investigation: Read about Sylvia Rivera and discuss the common beliefs held by her and Johnson https://legacyprojectchicago.org/person/sylvia-rivera.

Level 3: Transformational Approach
1. Marsha was transformed into a legend of the Stonewall Era. She is said to “have thrown the first brick”, though she, herself denied it repeatedly. Has this myth served to obscure or enhance the valuable work she did after Stonewall?
2. View this clip https://youtu.be/jcU0DgjU5NI. In your opinion, was her death a suicide? Why or why not?
3. Johnson’s life and tragic ending have become extremely important in LGBTQ history. Why? What do you think she would want emphasized in any memorial to her legacy?

Level 4: Social Action Approach
2. How would you advocate for transgender, gender-non-conforming, and non-binary youth in your school, your community and society in general?
3. What would you tell lawmakers who oppose legislation that protects the entire LGBTQ community from discrimination in every walk of life? How would you address resistance to Transgender inclusion and acceptance among LGB people?