

GUY2GUY PHASE ONE G2G BULLETIN BOARD FOCUS GROUP 1: MODERATOR SCRIPT (SEXUALLY EXPERIENCED)

DAY 1: GENERAL G2G QUESTIONS

Our names are Brian and Zach and we will be moderating the session. Over the next 3 days, we'll talk about your thoughts on different parts of a healthy sexuality and HIV prevention program that we are developing. Today, we will be talking about how you use text messaging and how much privacy you have/want to have about your texts and texting habits. Tomorrow and the next day, we will talk about ways you prevent HIV; so, things like sex, relationships, and how you meet other guys.

As you can probably see, you are one of 16-20 other young men taking part in this Group. You all have a few things in common so I anticipate a lively discussion! You are all young men who identify as gay, bisexual, or queer. All of you have used text messaging for the past 6 months and intend to continue to do so.

Here is some basic information about how the next 3 days will go:

1. Each day, two sets of questions will be posted: one set at 6 am and the other at 12 noon Eastern time. [NOTE: check your time zone!]
2. Please look at the entire list of topics for the day. Please answer all the questions using the blue "REPLY TO THREAD" button located in the left corners. Posts you still need to read will be bold and blue. To reply to other people's remarks, please use the "REPLY WITH QUOTE" button just below the comment you are responding to.
3. Please drop by and check this Board at least twice per day (more if you want to!). I will be reading your posts and responding to clarify things and ask follow-up questions. I don't want to take too much of your time, so I will try to make it short and sweet!
4. If you have any problems at all with using this Board, or have questions, please let me know or contact the technical help line at: help@projectg2g.com.

Day 1: Objectives of Session 1 will be to document texting behavior and relationship experience. Session 2 will document feelings about text messaging privacy and explore scenarios when program messages might be discovered by other people.

Day 1, Session 1

Okay, let's get started!

Please answer questions using the blue "REPLY TO THREAD" button located in the left corners. To reply to other people's remarks, please use the "REPLY WITH QUOTE" button just below the comment you are responding to.

Before we get into a discussion about how you use text messaging, let's start with some general questions.

To break the ice - tell us your best joke!

Relationship experience

Tell us about your experiences:

- Are you in a relationship? If so, for how long have you been seeing this person?
- What's the most important thing you look for in a boyfriend?

Texting habits

Thanks for sharing a little bit about yourself! Now let's move on to talk a little bit about your experiences with texting.

- How does your texting change depending on the time of day or weekend versus weekday?

Thoughts about the best time to send messages

We are going to be sending messages throughout the day, but we want to make sure that we send them when it is convenient and guys can read them.

- Thinking about your schedule, what time frame would be good during the week? During the weekend?

School rules and cell phone use

- What kind of rules does your school have about using your cell phone at school? Would you think about breaking the rules?

Handling texts received at a bad time

- Thinking more generally, what would you do if you got a text message and it was a bad time?

Potential follow-up questions for Day 1, Session 1

Thanks a lot for your responses to these questions!

It seems like most of you are saying that it is best for you if you receive texts after school on weekdays and pretty much anytime on the weekends. But some of you have other conflicts (jobs etc). We want to know how we can make this program work best for you and have a few ideas for you to consider. Please tell us what you think and which idea you like better and why:

- 1. If we set up a system where you could schedule a specific time or time-frame when you would receive texts from the healthy sexuality program would you find that to be helpful?*
- 2. Since a number of you indicate that you may want to respond to texts later, when you have more time or aren't busy, would you like a function that would let you "snooze" the message like your alarm clock? This would let you stop the messages from arriving for as much time as you said. Would you want to be able to put off the messages for a while like this?*

Day 1, Session 2

Text messaging privacy

- Does anyone read your texts that makes you uncomfortable? Do you ever get “in trouble” with anyone about your text messaging?

Preventing people from reading your texts

- What do you do to keep other people from reading your private text messages?

Likes about receiving healthy sexuality text messages

Next, I'd like to learn your thoughts about the intervention that we're developing. The idea is to send guys like you information about healthy sexuality and HIV prevention information via text messaging (as opposed to online, at school, etc). The program would last about 6 weeks and, as we mentioned this morning, people would receive multiple text messages per day. We will get into more detail about this later but would like to start with a few general questions:

- Can you tell me what you *like* about the idea of receiving text messages that talk about healthy sexuality and that share ways to help to prevent HIV transmission?

Dislikes about receiving healthy sexuality text messages

- What do you *dislike* about the idea of receiving text messages that talk about healthy sexuality and share ways to help to prevent HIV transmission?
 - *PROBE: What might get overwhelming or annoying? Is it what we say in the messages or how often we send them?*

Also, we want to provide as much information as we can in the project. Each message would be the typical length for a text message (less than 160 characters). Most you would just have to read and others you would need to respond to. How many messages could we send each day before it became annoying?

Thoughts about the healthy sexuality program - what could go wrong?

- What do you think could go wrong in a program like this? What are things that we need to be thinking about and planning for?

Potential follow-up questions for Day 1, Session 2

Thanks so much for your thoughtful comments and feedback! Here are a few follow-up questions based on some of the things that you said (and the short polls above).

(POLL asks if out to parents with response options: No; Yes - mom; Yes - dad; or Yes - both.)

- *Would you tell your parents if you were in this program and receiving text messages about healthy sexuality and HIV prevention? How do you think they would respond if you told them or if they found out?*
- *Many of you raised concerns about privacy and possible “outing”- what do you think might happen in your life if someone saw messages that included words like “gay” or “anal sex?” Do you think the strategies that you wrote about (such as locking your phones) work well enough that you would feel safe receiving these messages?*

Day 2: Objectives of Session 1 will be to understand sexual decision making and attitudes toward sex. Session 2 will document attitudes toward condom use and finding information on healthy sex.

Day 2, Session 1

Thoughts about sexual decision making

- What do you think are reasons some young men like yourself choose to have sex? To not to have sex?

Sexual decision making

- How did you make a decision to have sex the first time?

Different kinds of sexual experiences

- When you have sex, what is different between the times when it feels like a decision you are making versus times when it feels more like it “just happens?”

Pressures to have sex

- Do you ever feel pressured (from partners, friends, community, etc) to have sex? How so/in what way?

Deciding not to have sex

- What are reasons that you might stop having sex for a while?

Experiences with healthy sexuality programs

- Are there programs, messages that you find to be *helpful* in trying to educate or promote healthy sexual relationships, the use of condoms, or abstinence? What about programs that are *unhelpful*?

That's it for this morning's questions... please log back in this afternoon anytime after 12 noon EST for your next session!! Thanks!

Potential follow-up questions for Day 2, Session 1

Thanks so much for all of your comments this morning!

I wonder if you could say more about what your experiences have been with sex education-

- *Did you have sex ed in school? What did you learn?*
- *Did your parents talk to you at all about sex? Were these discussions useful to you?*
- *In either case, what was missing in terms of learning about sex between two guys?*

Day 2, Session 2

Thoughts about condom use

Welcome back...you're doing a fantastic job...let's jump right into this afternoon's questions.

- What percentage of guys like you would you guess use condoms when they have sex?

Feelings about condom use

- How do you feel about condoms and using them?

Reasons guys don't use condoms

- What do you think are reasons some young men like yourself don't use condoms? Please be as specific here as possible. Tell a story about yourself or a friend if that is an easier way to explain!
 - *PROBE: Some guys have sex with just guys and others have sex with guys and girls. We want to try and give information to both gay and bisexual guys, but we also don't want to turn anyone off. How would you feel if you got texts with the word "vagina" (in other words, sex with a girl?)*

Supporting regular condom use:

- What do you think could be done to help you use condoms more regularly?

Making decisions about condom use

- What do you think about using condoms when you have a serious boyfriend?
- What have you heard about when it's okay to stop using condoms (if ever)? And how do you decide this? (As a couple, it just happens, some other way..?)
 - *PROBE: How long do you need to be together before you stop using condoms? How do you know you can trust him?*

Finding information about sex

- Where do you look for information about how to have good sex?
 - *PROBE: Guys in other studies have said that online porn is a major way that they learn about sex with guys. Is this true for you? What do you think are some of the problems in learning about sex from porn?*

Thoughts about the healthy sexuality program and sex tips

- What kind of tips would you want to hear about to help you have good sex and to be a good lover?
- In the healthy sexuality program that we're developing, do you think it would be better if we sent these tips to everyone, or if we gave each person the choice to receive the information or not?

That is all of my questions for today. Please remember to check back later to see if I have further questions for you or to comment on other people's responses.

Tomorrow we will be discussing specific parts of the intervention that we are developing including 'text buddies' – we'll tell you more about what those are tomorrow. The questions will be online by 6am EST, so I'll "see" you then!

Potential follow-up question for Day 2, Session 2

- *What do you think when you hear that most (80%) of HIV infections among gay teens come from a serious boyfriend?*

Day 3: Objectives of Day 3 will be to present the text program concepts and to document participants' reactions for acceptability and saliency.

Day 3, Session 1

Likes about the "text buddy" idea

Welcome back!

Please remember to check back to yesterday's posts to see if I have further questions for you.

Today, we are going to talk about other parts of the intervention that we are developing to see what you think about them.

First, let's talk about "Text Buddies". Each person enrolled in the intervention will be matched with another person in the intervention to text back and forth with. Buddies will not know each other face-to-face and will be from different parts of the United States. To keep them anonymous to each other we run all of the text messages through our system, rather than having them message each other directly. The idea is for the two to provide support to each other and talk about the things that they are learning in the program.

- What do you like most about the "text buddy" idea? How would it be helpful to you?

Dislikes about the "text buddy" idea

- What do you like least about this idea? In what ways would it not be helpful to you?
 - *PROBE: Would it help you guys to know that we would be available for you to contact if you were having problems with your text buddy and that we would be able to pair you with someone new if necessary?*

"Text buddy" and sexual decision making

- Are there ways that you think the text buddy might make it harder to stick to the sexual decisions that you have made for yourself?

Concerns about the "text buddy" concept

- What concerns would you have if your Text Buddy dropped out of the study early? What other kinds of worries would you have about having or being a "text buddy"?
 - *PROBE: What kind of rules do you think we should have for Text Buddies that could address some of your concerns?*

Texting your buddy

- If you were in the intervention, do you think you would text your Buddy? Why or why not? What kinds of messages would you send to your Buddy?

Improving the "text buddy" concept

- What would you do to improve this idea?

That's it for this morning's questions... please log back in this afternoon anytime after 12 noon EST for your next session!! Thanks!

Day 3, Session 2

Advice for meeting a boyfriend

Ok, we are almost there. Thanks for your enthusiasm – it's been great to hear what you think about all of this! These are the final questions. Here we go!

A number of you have questions about how to meet a boyfriend - we'd love to hear your advice on how to meet a boyfriend!

Likes about the "SOS Tonight" idea

This morning, we talked about the "text buddy" idea. Another idea we have for the intervention is called "SOS Tonight". If you were going to meet up with someone tonight, you could text the intervention and get a quick text back giving you support. So, something like: "Think you're going to get lucky tonight? Don't forget your ABCs: (no) Alcohol, (good) Breath, and (many) Condoms. Have fun!"

- What do you like most about the SOS Tonight idea? How would it be helpful to you?

Dislikes about the "SOS Tonight" idea

- What do you like least about the SOS Tonight idea? In what ways would it not be helpful to you?

Suggestions to improve "SOS Tonight"

- What would you do to improve the SOS Tonight idea?

Message ideas for "SOS Tonight"

If you were in charge of writing the SOS Tonight messages (the text that would come back to you if you texted SOS Tonight), what would you have the text messages say?

- Write the "perfect" SOS Tonight message that would help someone like you make a healthy choice below [we might even be able to use it in the program!]

Thoughts on rewards for participation

Thanks for feedback on the SOS tonight idea. To wrap things up, we would like to learn what types of "rewards" you think guys like yourself might like to receive for participating in the program we are developing and things that might help them stay involved for the entire program.

These are the final questions. Here we go!

- We are thinking about setting up an online store where participants could redeem points they earn during the project. We are thinking about things like movie ticket discounts, ring tones, and other items that are about \$5. What other kinds of items should we have in the store?

- *PROBE: If we were to send you condoms in the mail as a reward for being involved, how should we do it so they don't get caught by your parents? If we roll this out across the country we can't make it different for every guy so we need only a few ways to send the package that would work for most people. What would you want the package to look like and say on the outside and inside so it would be safe for you to get it?*

Keeping participants involved and wrap up!

The program is going to be about 6-weeks long. We want to stay in contact with everyone for 6-months so we can see how the program has helped them (or not) over time.

- What would keep you involved in the program for the entire 6 weeks? What would keep you from dropping out during the 6 months we are following up with you?

I've had such a great experience talking with all of you! I'm sad to say our discussion is complete. You have been great and I appreciate the time and effort you put into the discussion over the last few days.

As a last request please take one final look over all the sections to make sure you didn't miss any postings and to see if there are other comments you'd like to respond to. We'll be leaving this board active through tomorrow evening so that you can continue to respond. If you have participated fully and answered all the questions, you will receive your gift card in a few days time.

Thank you!!!

Potential follow-up questions for Day 3, Session 2

- *In looking back over all that you guys have shared over the past 3 days, another question has occurred to me: how would you say that alcohol or drugs have affected your ability to use condoms on a regular basis?*

One more follow-up question!

- *Some of you talked about feeling regrets about your first time having sex. Do you think that we should address this more in the text-messaging project? If so, what do you think we should say?*