

**GUY2GUY PHASE ONE  
G2G BULLETIN BOARD FOCUS GROUP 2:  
MODERATOR SCRIPT (SEXUALLY EXPERIENCED)**

**DAY 1: GENERAL G2G QUESTIONS**

**Hi there! Welcome to the discussion board.** We are Brian and Zach. We will be moderating the discussion and are excited you're here!

We are in the process of creating a program for guys like you that will focus on healthy sexuality and HIV prevention. The idea is to send guys text messages on their phone each day for about 6 weeks that will give them skills and information about how to make healthy choices. Guys in the program would receive multiple text messages per day. Most of the texts will not require a response.

We need your help to make sure that the final text messaging program is something that guys like you will find interesting. To do that, we are going to ask you questions on this bulletin board over the next 3 days to get your feedback and ideas about the different things we are planning to include in the text messaging program. We also are going to ask you questions about your life so that we are sure the things we talk about in the final program will be relevant for guys like you.

So, here's the plan: Today, we will be talking about dating and relationships and how much privacy you have/want when you text. Tomorrow and the next day, we will talk about ways you prevent HIV and specific ideas we have for how to run the text messaging program.

As you can probably see, you are one of 16-20 other young men taking part in this focus group. You all have a few things in common. 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. So I anticipate a lively discussion!

**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!). We will be reading your posts and responding to clarify things and ask follow-up questions, so please check your email within the bulletin board system to see if we asked you a follow-up question. We don't want to take too much of your time, so we 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 us know or contact the technical help line at: [help@projectg2g.com](mailto: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**

#### **Let's break the ice!**

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 get to know each other a bit. First, tell us your best joke!

#### **Relationship experience**

- Have you ever been in a relationship? Are you currently in a relationship? If so, for how long have you been seeing this person?

#### **Meeting guys**

- How do you usually meet guys? Any tips for meeting guys?

#### **Socializing and support**

- What information or tips can you share about where you go to socialize or meet other LGBT people? Are there places where you feel you can go where you feel safe and can be around other young LGBT people?
  - *PROBE: Does your school have a GSA or club that you participate in?*

#### **Resources**

- Where do you go to find support (like someone to talk to) or to find supportive information about health or sexuality?

#### **Thank you! Instructions for the next session!**

Thanks for your time so far...you're doing a great job. Please log on again this afternoon anytime after 12:00 Noon EST for your next session. You will go to the section titled "Monday afternoon."

**Day 1, Session 2****Welcome back! Instructions for this afternoon.**

Welcome back!

Please be sure to go to the sections from this morning and do a quick check to see if there are “posts” that you missed.

Also, we may have asked additional questions of some of you on this morning's boards in response to your initial answers. Please do a quick look through to see if there's something in there for you.

**And, don't forget to talk to each other.** Feel free to ask each other for clarification or for examples, share your reaction to their comments, or add new ideas that came to you as you are reading other people's answers. It will make it more fun – and also improve our research.

**Text messaging privacy**

- Who reads your texts? How do you feel about it?
- When do your parents read your texts? What kinds of things happen when other people read messages on your phone?
  - *PROBE: If you do get in trouble or there's drama, can you explain why?*

**Preventing people from reading your texts**

- What do you do to keep other people from reading messages you want to keep private?
  - *PROBE: What advice would you have for someone like you on how to keep their personal text messages private?*

**Concerns about receiving text messages about healthy sexuality**

- What kinds of worries do you have about texts/info on your phone “outing” you? What about getting messages with words like “anal sex.”

### Likes about receiving healthy sexuality text messages

Ok, I think we're ready to start talking more specifically about the healthy sexuality text messaging program that we're developing. The idea is to send guys like you information about romance and dating, and HIV prevention information over text messaging. The program would last about 6 weeks and, as we mentioned this morning, people would receive multiple text messages per day. Most of the texts would not require a response. 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 getting 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 getting text messages that talk about healthy sexuality and share ways to help to prevent HIV transmission?
  - *PROBE: can you give some suggestions about ways that we might make the messages more interesting and seem relevant to you even when you are single?*
  - *PROBE: To those of you who said it would be overwhelming or annoying: What would get overwhelming or annoying? Is it what we say in the messages or how often we send them?*
  - *PROBE: 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 messages you would read but not respond to (some, say one every other day, 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 do we need to be thinking about?

- 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 – especially to keep the guys safe?

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

Tomorrow's questions will be online by 6am EST, so I'll "see" you then!

***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:*

- *If you were in a healthy sexuality program like the one we are developing, what are your thoughts on whether you would tell your parents about it? 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 ways you keep your messages safe (such as locking your phones) work well enough that you would feel safe receiving these type of messages if you were in this healthy sexuality program?*

*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**

### **Welcome back! Instructions for today's sessions**

Welcome back! Glad to see you checking in. Yesterday was great. We are getting fantastic information and appreciate your detail.

Please be sure to go to the sections from yesterday and check to see if there are posts that you missed. Also, please take a quick look to see if there are any follow-up questions for you to answer from yesterday. To do this, simply go back to the previous section and look to see if there are any blue envelope icons indicating that you have unread posts to read. You can be sure that you have answered each question if there is a green arrow next to the thread when you enter the session.

Thanks! And don't forget that you can ask others what they mean or ask for ideas and clarification.

Now, on to the next sets of questions! Today's questions will focus on how you make decisions about what you want and don't want to do sexually, and your thoughts about/experiences with condoms, and your experiences with sexual health programs.

### **Sexual decision making**

- What do you think are reasons some young men like yourself choose to have sex?
- What are some of the drawbacks of having sex?

### **First time - Sexual decision making**

- Can you describe how you made the decision to have sex for the first time? What do you remember about it that may have made it a hard decision? An easy decision?

### **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 some reasons you can imagine why someone might *choose* to stop having sex for a while? (so we're not meaning times when you want to have sex and willing partners don't seem to be around 😊)
- Have you ever chosen to stop having sex for awhile? If yes, what were some of your reasons?

### Experiences with healthy sexuality programs

- Please share your thoughts about programs (e.g., Sex Ed in school, or a program at a community organization) that you know about that talks about sex safe or abstinence: how do they make you feel? How were they useful (or not)?
- What experiences do you have with programs that fail to talk about issues related to sex between guys? What about programs that do talk about sex between guys?

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 from 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?*
- *What have your parents said to you about sex? Were these discussions useful to you?*
- *What was missing that you needed or wanted to know about sex between two guys?*

*Thank you!*



## Day 2, Session 2

### Thinking about condoms

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

- How do you feel about using condoms?
- What percentage of guys like you would you guess use condoms when they have sex?
  - *PROBE: When you have sex, how often do you use condoms? What kinds of sex do you use condoms for?*
- What things make it easier to use condoms?

### 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: How would you overcome your embarrassment about getting condoms? [If you've never bought condoms, mentally walk yourself through the experience and tell us things that might help you get through the experience.] What are 2-3 tips that you have for other gay, bi, and queer teens on how to get condoms more easily?*
  - *PROBE: We agree that it's important to remember that while some guys have sex with just guys, 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 that included the word "vagina" (in other words, talked about having 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: A lot of you have said you can stop using condoms when you have been with someone for a long time or if you trusted him. How long do you need to be together before you stop using condoms? How do you know you can trust him?*

### Thoughts about HIV transmission between boyfriends.

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

### 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 common way that they learn about sex with guys. How does this relate to your experience? What do you think are some of the problems in learning about sex from porn?*

### Thoughts about the healthy sexuality program and sex tips

We are thinking about including 'sex tips' in the healthy sexuality program we're developing.

- What kinds of tips would you want to hear about to help you have good sex and to be a good lover?
- How would you feel about getting text messages that had details about sex tips?
- What do you think is better: everybody receiving these tips automatically, or being able to decide if you wanted to receive the sex tips?

That is all of our questions for today. Please remember to check back later to see if we 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!

*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 we 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". To remind you about how the program we are designing will work – young men will receive text messages daily with information (that's hopefully interesting to read!) about how to stay healthy and prevent HIV. As part of that program – guys will be matched with another guy in the intervention to text back and forth with. Buddies will not know each other in person and will be from different parts of the United States. To protect everyone's privacy, we will run all of the text messages through our system so that no one has someone else's phone number without permission. 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? What concerns do you have about the idea?
  - *PROBE: Do you think that having someone available to contact if there were problems with your text buddy and providing ways for guys to "switch" text buddies if necessary would work to deal with your concerns? Do you have any other suggestions?*

#### **Rules for the "text buddy" concept**

- What kind of rules do you think we should have for Text Buddies that could address any concerns you have?

#### **Texting your buddy**

- Imagine that you're in the healthy sexuality text messaging program we're developing. What do you think you would text your Buddy? What kinds of things would you talk about?

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

### Likes about the "SOS Tonight" idea

This morning, we talked about the “text buddy” idea. Another idea we have for the intervention is what we’re calling “SOS Tonight.” Here’s how it would work:

If you were going to meet up with someone tonight, you could text the SOS number and you would then get a quick text back giving you support and information. 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?

### Message ideas for "SOS Tonight"

- If you were in charge of writing your own SOS Tonight messages (we mean: the text that would come back to you if you texted SOS Tonight), what would you write?
  - *PROBE: Look at the messages other people in this session wrote. Which one (other than the one you wrote) would work best for you? Why?*

### Writing your own messages for SOS tonight

- Do you like the idea of writing your own messages that would come back to you when you needed them, or would you want us to write messages that would be used for everyone?

### Suggestions to improve "SOS Tonight"

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

### Ideas for control group content

In order for us to understand how our healthy sexuality program helps guys make healthier decisions, we need to compare it to another program that’s not about healthy sexuality. So, half of the guys we enroll in our study will be assigned to the healthy sexuality program and half to this \*other\* program. If you were assigned to this other text messaging program, you would receive the same number of text messages: so, about 3-4 text messages per day for 6 weeks.

- What other topics (besides sexual health) do you think you might find helpful or interesting to learn more about – and would be willing to get text messages for 6 weeks? What do you think about messages that discuss self-esteem? Body image? Other things related to your health and well-being?
  - *PROBE: Self-esteem? Body Image? Healthy living? Nutrition/Exercise?*

### “Rewards” for participants

We would like to learn what types of “rewards” you think guys like you might like to receive for taking part in the healthy sexuality text messaging program we are developing. Even though the program itself is 6 weeks, we are going to be following up with the guys for 6 months (!) to see if things they learned last over time.

- We are thinking about setting up an online store where guys could redeem points they earn during the text messaging 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?
- What other things aside from the store idea can you suggest?

One of the things we thought about was giving the guys free condoms. Because the guys will be all around the US, we would need to mail the condoms to the guys.

- How could we mail the condoms so the guys don't get caught by your parents? We can't send condoms differently 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?

### Wrap up!

Finally, we would like to get some feedback from you about your experience over the last 3 days in this online discussion.

1. In what ways do you think your views have changed (if at all) as a result of taking part in this Discussion?
2. In what ways do you think your behavior might change (if at all) as a result of taking part in this Discussion?
3. In what ways (if at all) has this Discussion changed your views or thoughts about having/not having sex?
4. How has the Discussion changed your views or thoughts (if at all) about using/not using condoms?

We've had such a great experience talking with all of you! We're 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 and talk with each other. If you have participated fully by answering questions in each session, you will receive your gift card in a few days' time.

Thank you!!!