**LGBTQ Civil Rights**
Lesson 1 Homework—TEACHER’S VERSION

**Directions:** Read the section titled “Representing LGBT Communities” and answer the questions below using complete sentences.

1. What specific event influenced George Takei to publicly announce his sexual orientation?

   *California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger’s decision in 2005 to veto a bill allowing same-sex marriage influenced George Takei in deciding to take a public stand and announce his sexual orientation.*

2. When did the Supreme Court rule in favor of same-sex marriage across the country?

   *The Supreme Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriage across the country in June 2015.*

3. What would have been the effect of the “Don’t Say Gay” bill?

   *Tennessee’s “Don’t Say Gay” bill would have prevented teachers from talking about homosexuality in the classroom.*

4. According to George Takei, what is the influence of social media and the internet in discussing the LGBT community?

   *Social media and the internet create a spread of information that can help change attitudes about the LGBT community and LGBT people. Specifically, this spread of information and greater visibility helps erase stereotypes about LGBT people so that they can be seen as individuals rather than those stereotypes.*

5. Write one of the metaphors/images that George Takei uses to describe his experience as a member of the LGBT community. Is this description helpful in understanding his experience? Explain.

   *Example 1: Coming out is like a “long, long walk through what began as a narrow corridor that starts to widen”.*

   *Example 2: Takei uses his childhood incarceration and internment camps as a metaphor: the LGBT community is imprisoned by “legalistic barbed wire fences” of “discrimination and lack of understanding, ignorance, in the laws”.*