Tiffany: I remember being in 2nd grade, and there was a police shooting, where a black kid was shot by a white police officer. And people in our town were rioting about it. And I remember some kid saying, “black people are all bad, Tiffany.” And that was the first time I started to think of myself—and my skin color—as a bad thing.

Narrator: Race, class, religion, sexual orientation—too often we are defined by our differences. And no one sees this more clearly than our kids.

Jenny: I go to a private school, small school. And everyone there’s—not everyone’s the same—but everyone’s very similar.

Casandra: It gets a little weird when you look around and you’re the only black person in the class because you decide to take advanced classes. There is that whole…trying to prove you’re black.

Sarah: Growing up here is not exactly the most healthy environment for being gay.

Jonathan: I’ve had this knowledge of race from a very young age because I’ve always been different from the people I was raised around.

Narrator: Fortunately, young minds are also the ones most open to possibilities. The Kentucky Conference for Community and Justice reaches out to these young minds, through a program called LYLA: the Lexington Youth Leadership Academy.

Jenny: The thing that’s so different about LYLA is that it’s not just the diversity

Audio

Video

Tiffany on camera

B-Roll: Newspaper headlines, news footage

Back to Tiffany


V/SOT: Jenny

V/SOT: Casandra

V/SOT: Sarah

V/SOT: Jonathan

B-Roll: Montage of Verite footage. Super KCCJ, then LYLA, then Lexington Youth Leadership Academy

Jenny on camera
**Kentucky Chapter Youth Leadership Video**

**Narrator:** LYLA teaches youth leadership skills such as Awareness, Conflict Resolution and Advocacy.

Tiffany: Awareness education…being aware that there’s people who are different than you. Being aware of the issues they face.

Jenny: We say “dialogue, not debate” a lot. Basically, you listen and you don’t try to form your opinion, you don’t try to think of what you’re going to say while you’re listening to someone. You just listen and take in what they’re saying.

Tiffany: Advocacy? That is finding something you are passionate about and fighting for it.

Sarah: Being a Community Change Agent. Basically it’s trying to teach them how to take what they have learned at camp and take it back to their schools, into their communities, and their family and friends.

**Narrator:** A key component of the LYLA program is a week-long summer camp called Everytown.

Jonathan: The main message we have at camp is not change or alter your views.

Sarah: You come into an environment where you can be who you are and share who you are, and you’re not going to be ridiculed for that in any way, shape or form.
form.

Jonathan: I actually thought of myself as a very open-minded and liberal person before going to camp. And on my return I found out that I was not.

Sarah: I hear people talk about defining moments in their life, and camp was a defining moment for me.

Jonathan: It changed my life basically. It’s a week of growing and getting to know the differences in people, and the differences within yourself.

**Narrator: The KCCJ and LYLA…helping to create the next generation of leadership for a changing world.**

Casandra: I think LYLA has done quite a bit to get me ready for the Real World.

Jenny: I think I realize now that I can go to school and I can be friends with whoever I want to be friends with. I can do whatever I want to do and be a part of whatever group I want to be a part of.

Sarah: It made me feel like I actually have a voice and that I can affect change.

Tiffany: You can’t be okay with other people until you’re okay with who you are. And you can’t be a leader until you’re okay with who you are, and you know who you are. I think that is the greatest gist LYLA has given me, is just myself.

Casandra: I’m ready to face hatred, because it is there. I know I am going to have to deal with it, and I feel like I am ready to.

Sarah: Actually I would say it saved my life because it gave me direction. It gave me a hope in people.
(Fade to Black)

| Graphic, silent: | To support KCCJ and The Lexington Youth Leadership Academy, call (859) 255-6999 Or visit www.kccjky.org |
