

Vito Russo test

Purpose: The Vito Russo test checks how often films depict lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex, trans or queer (LGBTIQ+) people, and the way in which they do so. It covers three categories: representation, complexity and relevance.

Test a film: Take a film you are making at the moment or one you are interested in and apply the test. The film only 'passes' the test if you answer yes to all the questions below.

Title of film: _____

Criterion 1: Representation

Does the film include at least one character who is recognisably lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex, trans or queer? **YES** **NO**

Criterion 2: Complexity

Is this character primarily defined in terms of their sexuality or gender identity? Is the character just as complex as non-queer characters in the film? **YES** **NO**

Criterion 3: Relevance

Is the character of central importance to the film's plot? Would the main strand of the plot be severely impacted if the character were not present? **YES** **NO**

Result

Does the film improve public and media representations and perceptions of lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex, trans and/or queer people? **YES** **NO**