

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRONOUNS IN A EMAIL SIGNATURE

While it may seem strange, unnecessary or unneeded, putting your personal pronouns in your email signature is actually something to seriously considered doing for a number of reasons.

The purpose behind placing your pronouns in your email signature is that it's a way to help normalize stating and expressing pronouns as well as serving to reduce the subtle ways that the LGBTQ+ community is othered.

Transgender and non-binary/genderqueer individuals often have to go through an awkward and sometimes risky process of stating their pronouns or correcting others on their pronouns. Because this is only really done by members of the LGBTQ+ community it serves to both place LGBTQ+ people as separate from others and forcibly outing them into a possibly un-inclusive environment.

By stating your pronouns, it serves to normalize expressing them and make it so it is not something that just LGBTQ+ people do. As well it allows for people to feel comfortable expressing their own back, which can both reduce confusion and misunderstanding on one side and alleviate discomfort and dysphoria on the other.

It's not a big step, but it's a small one that people can take to show that they care and understand and to make the world a bit more accepting of the LGBTQ+ community. Next time you have a chance, take a second to consider updating your signature to include your pronouns. They can be included underneath your job title, off to the side or directly behind your name. But by doing that little action, a big difference may be made.

This Document was developed by the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues.

For more information please visit: efcl.org