

# Ellen DeGeneres: Coming Out

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## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources

Degeneres, Ellen, performer. *Ellen Celebrates the 20th Anniversary of Her 'Coming Out'*

*Episode*. TheEllenShow, 2017.

Ellen reflects on her coming out experience on its 20th anniversary on an episode of “The Ellen Show.” It shows how Ellen is still an advocate for the LGBTQ community and even today, is still inspiring people to be their true selves.

"Ellen Degeneres." Interview by Eric Marcus. *Making Gay History*, 2001,

[makinggayhistory.com/podcast/ellen-degeneres/](http://makinggayhistory.com/podcast/ellen-degeneres/). Accessed 8 Nov. 2019.

In this interview and its notes, Ellen speaks to Eric Marcus and details her motives for coming out and the backlash she received, as well as how coming out has impacted her career thus far. Additionally, the episode notes give further background information about how Ellen hadn't planned to grow up to be an LGBTQ advocate. However, that is exactly where she is now despite all the criticism and hate she has received over the years.

"Yep, I'm Gay." Interview by TIME Magazine. *TIME*, 14 Apr. 1997,

[time.com/4728994/ellen-degeneres-1997-coming-out-cover/](http://time.com/4728994/ellen-degeneres-1997-coming-out-cover/). Accessed 29 Oct. 2019.

This interview was conducted before “The Puppy Episode” aired, in which Ellen officially comes out to Time Magazine and is featured on the front cover of the issue in April, 1997. It provides insight into her decision to come out on national TV. This is a good source because it is Ellen herself talking and informing the audience, instead of someone else analyzing her decision.

Ellen Attending a Hollywood Premier with Partner, Anne Heche. 19 June 1997. *Timeline.com*, Medium, [miro.medium.com/max/1282/1\\*n0Nsx3xFpvv3qkoKX9KVaw.jpeg](https://miro.medium.com/max/1282/1*n0Nsx3xFpvv3qkoKX9KVaw.jpeg). Accessed 23 Dec. 2019.

This picture helps us understand how confident Ellen was in her coming out. Only a few months after “The Puppy Episode” aired, she arrived at a Hollywood premier hand-in-hand with her partner at the time.

Ellen DeGeneres and Oprah Winfrey in "The Puppy Episode". 30 Apr. 1997. *Time*, [api.time.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ellen-oprah.jpg?w=600&quality=85](https://api.time.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ellen-oprah.jpg?w=600&quality=85). Accessed 23 Dec. 2019.

This image shows Ellen talking to Oprah about being a lesbian in “The Puppy Episode.”

"Ellen Degeneres 20/20 Interview Part One Coming Out 1997." *YouTube*, uploaded by Jaws-of-Oz, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPMthYke01g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPMthYke01g). Accessed 29 Oct. 2019.

In this interview, Ellen details to 20/20 her experience coming out and everything she has had to deal with. We hear directly from Ellen about why she came out and how that affects her. This interview was filmed shortly after she came out, thus giving us a firsthand account of how she felt at the time. Diane Sawyer asks Ellen multiple questions regarding her coming out, giving us even more information.

"Ellen Receiving the Medal of Honor from President Barack Obama." *ABC News*, 23 Nov. 2016, [www.abc.net.au/news/image/8049064-3x2-940x627.jpg](https://www.abc.net.au/news/image/8049064-3x2-940x627.jpg).

This image shows how powerful of a figure Ellen still is today, as she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2016 from President Obama.

*How Ellen's 'Puppy Episode' Influenced Hollywood—and America. History.com,*

[www.history.com/.image/ar\\_16:9%2Cc\\_fill%2Ccs\\_srgb%2Cfl\\_progressive%2Cg\\_faces:center%2Cq\\_auto:good%2Cw\\_768/MTU3OTIzNjYwNjc0MDQ5OTk4/how-ellen039s-039puppy-episode039-influenced-hollywoodand-americas-featured-photo.jpg](http://www.history.com/.image/ar_16:9%2Cc_fill%2Ccs_srgb%2Cfl_progressive%2Cg_faces:center%2Cq_auto:good%2Cw_768/MTU3OTIzNjYwNjc0MDQ5OTk4/how-ellen039s-039puppy-episode039-influenced-hollywoodand-americas-featured-photo.jpg). Accessed 20 Dec. 2019.

This is an image of Ellen Morgan and Susan in “The Puppy Episode” talking about her coming out.

Image of Ellen Degeneres. *Variety*, Variety Media,

[pmcvariety.files.wordpress.com/2018/11/ellen-degeneres-walmart-ev1-e1541634843506.png?crop=0px%2C0px%2C1422px%2C800px&resize=1000%2C563](https://pmcvariety.files.wordpress.com/2018/11/ellen-degeneres-walmart-ev1-e1541634843506.png?crop=0px%2C0px%2C1422px%2C800px&resize=1000%2C563). Accessed 19 Nov. 2019.

This image of Ellen is featured on our home page. It is a recent headshot of hers.

*The Puppy Episode*. Performance by Ellen Degeneres and Laura Dern, directed by Gil Junger, American Broadcasting Company, 1997.

This is the actual episode in which Ellen came out on. Entitled “The Puppy Episode,” Ellen confesses her truth in an airport to her friend, Susan, who is also a lesbian.

Shepard, Dax. "Ellen DeGeneres - Armchair Express ." *Armchair Express*, 12 Mar. 2018.

This podcast includes Ellen reflecting back on her coming out. It is important to include because she talks about all the harsh criticism she received and how she kept working through it. The fact that this podcast was published recently also helps to share her current opinions on the matter as opposed to something more out of date.

Winfrey, Oprah and Justin Tan, directors. *Ellen Coming out on Oprah Part 1. YouTube*, 6 June 2015, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRUjNOpT5-A](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRUjNOpT5-A).

This is a video clip from Ellen's interview on Oprah in which she is very open and vulnerable about the courageous act of coming out on national TV. This demonstrates how she was feeling shortly after her episode aired.

Zahedi, Firooz. "The April 14, 1997, Cover of TIME ." *Time*, 13 Apr. 2017, [time.com/4728994/ellen-degeneres-1997-coming-out-cover/](http://time.com/4728994/ellen-degeneres-1997-coming-out-cover/).

This picture of the front cover of Time magazine is from the issue in which Ellen was interviewed shortly after coming out. This shows what the world saw on the front cover at a time that being gay was especially controversial.

## Secondary Sources

"Controversial 'Coming Out' Episode of 'Ellen' Airs." *HISTORY*, A&E Television Networks, 13 Nov. 2009, [www.history.com/this-day-in-history/coming-out-episode-of-ellen](http://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/coming-out-episode-of-ellen). Accessed 29 Oct. 2019.

This article from History.com recognizes the anniversary of Ellen's coming out. It shows the impact on society when it happened, and still today. This helped us when trying to understand how far this event reached, and how many people's lives it touched.

"Ellen DeGeneres Angry over Parental Advisory." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 9 Oct. 1997, [edition.cnn.com/SHOWBIZ/9710/09/ellens.kiss/](http://edition.cnn.com/SHOWBIZ/9710/09/ellens.kiss/). Accessed 8 Nov. 2019.

This article is a report from 1997 when a parental advisory label was going to be attached to an episode of Ellen's sitcom because two girls were kissing. This source was valuable to us because it shows how much of an advocate Ellen is for things that she believes in.

Ellen DeGeneres Show Logo. *Stick PNG*,

[www.stickpng.com/img/at-the-movies/ellen-degeneres/ellen-degeneres-show-logo](http://www.stickpng.com/img/at-the-movies/ellen-degeneres/ellen-degeneres-show-logo).

Accessed 25 Nov. 2019.

This image of the logo for "The Ellen Show" was used to create continuity in our project and give viewers a reminder of Ellen's accomplishments.

"42 Million Tune in to Watch a Coming Out." *The New York Times*, 2 May 1997, sec. B, p. 14.

*The New York Times*,

[www.nytimes.com/1997/05/02/arts/42-million-tune-in-to-watch-a-coming-out.html](http://www.nytimes.com/1997/05/02/arts/42-million-tune-in-to-watch-a-coming-out.html).

Accessed 8 Nov. 2019.

This article, which summarized the breakthrough on Ellen's sitcom episode was beneficial in creating our project because it helped us to understand how many people the episode immediately reached and how it was a highly publicized story right away.

Jensen, Erin. "Ellen DeGeneres' Mom Has a Message for Other Parents of Abused Children, 'Believe Them.'" *USA Today*, Gannett Satellite Information Network, 2 June 2019, [www.usatoday.com/story/life/people/2019/05/31/ellen-degeneres-mom-mother-betty-sexual-assault-abuse-statement/1297299001/](http://www.usatoday.com/story/life/people/2019/05/31/ellen-degeneres-mom-mother-betty-sexual-assault-abuse-statement/1297299001/).

This article which quotes an interview with Ellen's mother, Betty, was valuable to our project because it shed light on Ellen's childhood, and the abuse that she endured, which has in turn made her an amazing advocate for people.

Joelle, Memoree, editor. "About AfterEllen." *AfterEllen*, Lesbian Nation, [www.afterellen.com/about](http://www.afterellen.com/about). Accessed 8 Nov. 2019.

This website was founded after Ellen came out in order to support her, and others wanting to do the same thing. We realized that this website shows how much Ellen coming out impacted society and helped to create a voice for those in similar positions.

Kirst, Seamus. "How Ellen's 'Puppy Episode' Influenced Hollywood-and America." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks, 20 June 2018, [www.history.com/news/ellen-degeneres-show-coming-out-lgbt-rights](http://www.history.com/news/ellen-degeneres-show-coming-out-lgbt-rights).

This article was important to our project because it highlights recent accomplishments that Ellen has had, and how she is still advocating and breaking barriers today.

Stone, Natalie. "Ellen DeGeneres to Receive Carol Burnett Award at 2020 Golden Globe Awards." *People*, 4 Nov. 2019. *People*,

[people.com/tv/golden-globes-2020-ellen-degeneres-to-receive-carol-burnett-award/](https://people.com/tv/golden-globes-2020-ellen-degeneres-to-receive-carol-burnett-award/).

Accessed 8 Nov. 2019.

This article is about an upcoming award that Ellen is set to receive for her ongoing advocacy. This article is important to show Ellens never ending advocacy for others and willingness to help total strangers in order to better society.

Strachan, Maxwell. "When Ellen Came Out, She Didn't Just Change Lives. She Saved Them."

*HuffPost*, 28 Apr. 2017,

[www.huffpost.com/entry/ellen-puppy-episode-20-years\\_n\\_59025821e4b02655f83b2615](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/ellen-puppy-episode-20-years_n_59025821e4b02655f83b2615).

This article is about how Ellen's actions helped to save people, and their mental health.

This article shows the immediate impact Ellen had on people, and how many people she was able to help by being courageous.

Viera, Bené. "Ellen DeGeneres Came out in Front of Nearly 42 Million People." *Ellen*

*DeGeneres Came out in Front of Nearly 42 Million People*, Timeline, 3 May 2018,

[timeline.com/ellen-degeneres-came-out-in-front-of-nearly-42-million-people-966d4eafcb](https://timeline.com/ellen-degeneres-came-out-in-front-of-nearly-42-million-people-966d4eafcb76)

76.

This article is about Ellen's sense of pride with the outcome of the episode, and recognition of her creating history.

Weaver, Hilary. "Ellen DeGeneres's Groundbreaking Coming Out: 20 Years Later." *Vanity Fair*,

28 Apr. 2017,

[www.vanityfair.com/style/2017/04/20th-anniversary-of-ellen-degeneres-coming-out](https://www.vanityfair.com/style/2017/04/20th-anniversary-of-ellen-degeneres-coming-out).

Accessed 29 Oct. 2019.



This article is a reflection of Ellen's life since she came out. This is helpful because it also shows how she views her impact on history and the world.