

Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to reflect on their identities in relation to social groups and get to know others in the group. They will consider identities such as race, gender, and sexual orientation and contemplate how those identities manifest themselves in different environments and impact others' perceptions.

Background and Information:

Social Identity Wheel was adapted for use by the Program on Intergroup Relations and the Spectrum Center at the University of Michigan. It is published by the LSA Inclusive Teaching Initiative, University of Michigan (see citation below).

Objectives:

As a result of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. "Consider their identities critically and how identities are more or less keenly felt in different social contexts."
2. Recognize "how privilege operates to normalize some identities over others."
3. Appreciate "their shared identities...as well as the diversity of identities" involved in the activity (LSA Inclusive Teaching Initiative, University of Michigan, 2017).

Time:

10 minutes

Group Size:

Entire group

Materials:

Copies of the Social Identity Wheel Graphic handout and the Social Identity Group Definitions handout (in [Links](#)), pens/pencils

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Cultural Self-Awareness:

- To articulate insights into own cultural rules and biases (e.g., seeking complexity; aware of how their experiences have shaped these rules, and how to recognize and respond to cultural biases, resulting in a shift in self-description).

Curiosity:

- To ask complex questions about other cultures.
- To seek out and articulate answers to these questions that reflect multiple cultural perspectives.

Other Skills:

Friendship, Diversity & Inclusion

Links to Activity Instructions:

- [Social Identity Wheel instructions on the LSA Inclusive Teaching website](#)

Related Tools:

Tools to use in conjunction with this lesson:

- [Personal Identity Wheel](#)
 - Using this activity with the Social Identity Wheel allows participants to compare aspects of their personal and social identities.
- [Spectrum Activity, The, Questions of Identity](#)
 - This activity allows participants to consider how privilege affects their identities and how they may be perceived differently in various social contexts.

Similar tools:

- [Circles of My Multicultural Self](#)
- [Training Culturally Diverse You](#)