

**Overview:**

This lesson plan will challenge participants to reflect on their identities and how they are perceived in different contexts. They will consider identities such as race, gender, and sexual orientation and contemplate how those identities may be privileged in different environments and therefore affect their interactions with others.

**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:**

Paper and 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).

**Other Skills:**

Friendship, Diversity & Inclusion

### Links to Activity Instructions:

- [Spectrum Activity instructions on the LSA Inclusive Teaching website](#)

### Related Tools:

*Tools to use in conjunction with this lesson:*

- [Personal Identity Wheel](#)
  - Facilitators can use this activity to help participants prepare for the Spectrum Activity. It will allow them to identify personal aspects of their identity.
- [Social Identity Wheel](#)
  - Facilitators can use this activity to help participants prepare for the Spectrum Activity. It will allow them to identify the social aspects of their identity.

*Similar tools:*

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