

Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to create a timeline demonstrating how their identities have developed throughout their life. The goal is to help participants understand how social interactions affect their identities.

Background and Information:

Mapping Social Identity Timeline Activity is adapted for use by the Program on Intergroup Relations, 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. "Understand the ways their identities were learned and policed throughout their lives."
2. Problematize the "normalized policing of gender, sexuality, and race in social groups."
3. Recognize "the difference between messages [they] receive about their genders, classes, and races depending on what groups they belong to" (LSA Inclusive Teaching Initiative, University of Michigan, 2017).

Time:

30 minutes

Group Size:

Pairs

Materials:

Copies of the Cycle of Socialization handout (in [Links](#)), paper, and pens/pencils.

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- 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).

Openness:

- To initiate and develop interactions with culturally different others.
- To suspend judgment in valuing interactions with culturally different others.

Other Skills:

Diversity & Inclusion

Links to Activity Instructions:

- [Mapping Social Identity Timeline Activity instructions on the LSA Inclusive Teaching website](#)

Related Tools:

Similar tools:

- [Social Identity Wheel](#)