

Introduction:

A key aspect of intersectionality is the context in which an identity is expressed. With each of our identities, we both perceive ourselves and others receive us differently depending on the context and circumstances. We are always who we are, but we don't think about certain parts of ourselves in the same way until we change school, company, location, etc. In this activity, participants will explore how different identities become more salient under different circumstances.

Instructor Notes:

This activity can be facilitated synchronously either online or in-person, or assigned as an asynchronous individual activity online via a Learning Management System. If you plan to facilitate this activity in person or synchronously online, instruct participants to listen to the podcast mentioned in Activity Instruction #1 prior to facilitation.

Objectives:

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

1. Recognize the role of context and circumstances in construction and enactment of identity.
2. Articulate the ways in which identity shifts and is perceived across contexts.

Time:

1 hour.

Group Size:

Entire Group.

Materials:

Social Identity Wheel (in [Links](#)); Computer with access to the internet.

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).

Knowledge of Cultural Worldview Frameworks

- To demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the complexity of elements important to members of another culture in relation to its history, values, politics, communication styles, economy, or beliefs & practices.

Other Skills:

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.

Activity Instructions:

1. Instruct participants to listen to the “Coming Out Meatless” podcast: <https://www.southernfoodways.org/gravy/coming-out-meatless-gravy-ep-21/>.
2. Referencing the Links available in the HubICL, instruct participants to fill out a Social Identity Wheel for Choya Webb Jr. Specifically, they should indicate Choya’s different identities as per the wheel categories, as well as the contexts and circumstances in which these identities are more or less salient (i.e., his identity as a pastor’s son, his sexuality, and his dietary choices when he is with his family, when he is in Ann Arbor with friends, etc.).
3. Engage participants in a debrief discussing the following questions:
 - Which identities did you identify for Choya?
 - What identities for Choya would you like to add to the wheel?
 - Which contexts and circumstances inform these identities?
 - In which contexts are these identities more and less salient?
 - What role does self-perception play in the intersection of context and identity for Choya?
 - What role does audience (how others perceive us) play in the intersection of context and identity for Choya?
4. Ask participants to fill out a Social Identity Wheel for themselves. Challenge them to consider each of their identities in various contexts.
5. Engage participants in a debrief discussing the following questions:
 - How did you feel as you filled out your own Social Identity Wheel and the contexts in which your identities are more and less salient?
 - Which identities did you identify for yourself?
 - What identities for yourself would you like to add to the wheel?
 - Which contexts and circumstances inform these identities?
 - What role does your own self-perception play in the intersection of context and identity?
 - What role does your audience (how others perceive you) play in the intersection of context and identity?

- How can becoming aware of the intersections of your personal and social identities and the contexts and circumstances you find yourself in throughout your life help you personally?