

Identity Dialogue

Make signs for different identity group categories (race, class, gender, sexuality orientation, disability, religion, immigrant status, and age) and post them around the room. Try to make sure each area is big enough to accommodate several students.

Instruct students that when you ask a question, they should go to the sign that corresponds to their experience. Once there, you will ask them to share why they are there (30-60 seconds). After the students have gone, ask a few students from each group to share. Repeat this process for each question.

Then ask a series of the following the questions.

1. The part of my identity that was most emphasized growing up in my family was...
2. The part of my identity that was least emphasized growing up in my family was...
3. The part of my identity that I am most reminded of day to day is...
4. The part of my identity that I am most proud of is...

Note: 4 questions takes about 30 minutes.

Other questions:

The part of my identity I know the most/least about is...

The part of my identity that I like to talk with others the most/least about is...

The part of my identity that I would like to learn more about it...

The part of my identity that I am least reminded of day to day is...

The part of my identity that I am least proud of is...

To Process This Exercise:

What questions were the easiest to answer? Why? Hardest? Why?

What questions did you discover new ideas or learn something from someone else?

Did you find some categories easier or harder to go to? Which ones? Why?

What, if anything, did you learn about yourself that you weren't aware of before?

What issues or concerns were raised for you?

How might you use the information you learned?