

What is Diversity? Who Am I, Really?



The purpose of this activity is to help students to:

- a. Recognize there are many aspects to diversity and everyone is diverse in their own way.
- b. Recognize there is no single definition for diversity, nor is it our goal to develop one.
- c. Explore how our lives have shaped our views on diversity.
- d. Explore our own views of diversity and how they affect our interactions with our world.

Procedure:

1. Signs will be posted around the room with the following words or phrases written on them: race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, ability, citizenship/national origin. These are cultural markers, or different facets of a person that contribute to their identity.
2. Participants are asked to move to the sign/station that most fits the following statements:
 - I feel most drawn to this part of my identity.
 - I have experienced the most personal struggle/changes around this part of my identity.
 - This part of my identity gives me the most personal happiness.
 - This part of my identity has the most effect on how people treat me.
 - I have a lot to do to grow in this part of my personal identity.
 - Which cultural marker most influences the types of information that you seek out or access? (i.e. what kinds of topics do you search about, what kinds of sources do you select to discuss these topics, etc.)
3. Participants will be asked to share with one person in the small group at each cultural marker why they chose the sign for the cultural marker that they did for that question. Participants may share with the large group if they feel comfortable doing so.