

Spectrum Activity Questions on Identity

Ask students to consider their multiple identities. You might have them fill out a social identity wheel to begin. Place newsprint around the room each listing a social identity category such as race, ethnicity, gender, sex, sexual orientation, religion, social class, ability status, nationality, first language, etc. Then read off 5-6 of the following questions. Have participants move to the newsprint that most clearly helps them answer the question. Participants should discuss with others who went to the same category about why they moved to that space. Then read the next question. Large group share out at the end.

1. What part of your identity do you think people first notice about you?
2. What part of your identity are you most comfortable sharing with other people?
3. What part of your identity are you least comfortable sharing with other people?
4. What part of your identity are you most proud of?
5. What part of your identity did you struggle the most with growing up?
6. What part of your identity is the most important to you?
7. What part of your identity is least important to you?
8. What part of other people's identities do you notice first?
9. For what part of your identity do you feel you face oppression for most often?
10. For what part of your identity do you feel you receive privilege for most often?
11. For what part of your identity do you feel least comfortable with at U of M?
12. Your own identities you would like to learn more about.
13. Identities that have the strongest effect on how you see yourself as a person.
14. What part of your identity do you see having the most effect on your interactions with students?
15. What part of students' identities do you most often see effecting their interactions with you?
16. What part of your identity do you see having the most effect on your interactions with coworkers/peers?

Adapted for use by the Spectrum Center and the program on Intergroup Relations, University of Michigan.

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