

ACTIVITY 20

My Identity Chart

Purpose: Consider the various factors that make up one's identity. Create community and break down stereotypes by sharing identity charts with other advisees.

ADVISOR NOTES:

1. Understand the Purpose of Identity Charts

Identity charts are a graphic tool that can help students consider the many factors that shape the identities of both individuals and communities. To learn more about using the Identity Charts teaching strategy, visit facinghistory.org/advisory-media. In this activity, advisees will use identity charts to analyze the ways they define themselves and the labels that others use to describe them. Sharing their own identity charts with peers can help your advisees build relationships and break down stereotypes. In this way, identity charts can be used as an effective advisory community-building tool.

2. Model Identity for Your Advisory

Before this advisory meeting, create or start to make your own individual identity chart using the template that your advisees will use in the activity. Sharing your chart as a model and speaking about a few factors that make up your identity is an excellent community-building opportunity and a way for your advisees to learn more about you.

3. Choose an Identity Chart Template

In addition to the identity chart provided on our teaching strategy page (visit facinghistory.org/advisory-media to access this teaching strategy), there are two other identity chart templates that you can use for this activity: the **Starburst Identity Chart** or the **Inside-Outside Identity Chart**. Both templates allow advisees to consider the range of factors that make up their identities and how the way others perceive them can differ from their own ideas and feelings about their identities. If you feel like it is too early in the year to talk about perception, which can lead to discussions about stereotyping and discrimination, start with the identity chart example on the website. Students can update their identity charts using the other templates later in the year—for example, to complement activities in **Section 4: Membership and Belonging**.

APPROXIMATE TIME:
30 minutes

MATERIALS:

HANDOUT
Starburst Identity Chart

HANDOUT
Inside-Outside
Identity Chart

PROCEDURE:

1. Reflect on the Factors that Make Up Identity

- Explain to advisees that today they will be thinking about the many factors that make up their identities. Start by asking them to respond to the following question in their journals. You might get them started by first writing on the board a few factors that make up your own identity. Think generally at this point (race, age, gender, family identities, faith, etc.).
- Then ask advisees to make a list in their journal that responds to the following prompt:
What factors make up your identity? Write as many as you can think of in a list.
- Have advisees debrief with a partner, and then, on the board, generate a big list of factors that make up identity.
- If it doesn't come up in discussion as you generate your group list, prompt students with questions that help them think about the following ideas:
 - Some aspects of our identities are consistent over our lives; others change as we gain skills and have different roles in life.
 - Some feel very central to who we are no matter where we are; others might feel more like background or depend on the situation.
 - Some identities are labels others put on us; others see us as having that identity, but we might not.

2. Create Personal Identity Charts

- Explain to advisees that they will now think about the factors that make up their own identities and represent them in personal identity charts.
- Project or share a model of your identity chart and tell the story behind a few factors to help your advisees understand how to create their charts and, more important, allow them to get to know you better as an individual and advisor.
- Distribute the **Starburst Identity Chart** or **Inside-Outside Identity Chart** handout and give advisees time to complete it (see Advisor Notes about selecting an identity chart template). Let the group know that they will be sharing their identity charts with a small group of peers, but if they don't feel comfortable doing so, they can share one or two facets of their identity but keep their chart private.
- After advisees have had time to create their charts, have them share the charts with a partner. Following the example of how you modeled your own identity chart, encourage advisees to share the story behind one or two of the factors on their charts. Encourage advisees to share with someone they don't know well, create the pairs yourself, or draw names from a hat so advisees are meeting new people in the group through this sharing activity. They can also add ideas to their own charts if their paired discussions spark new thinking.

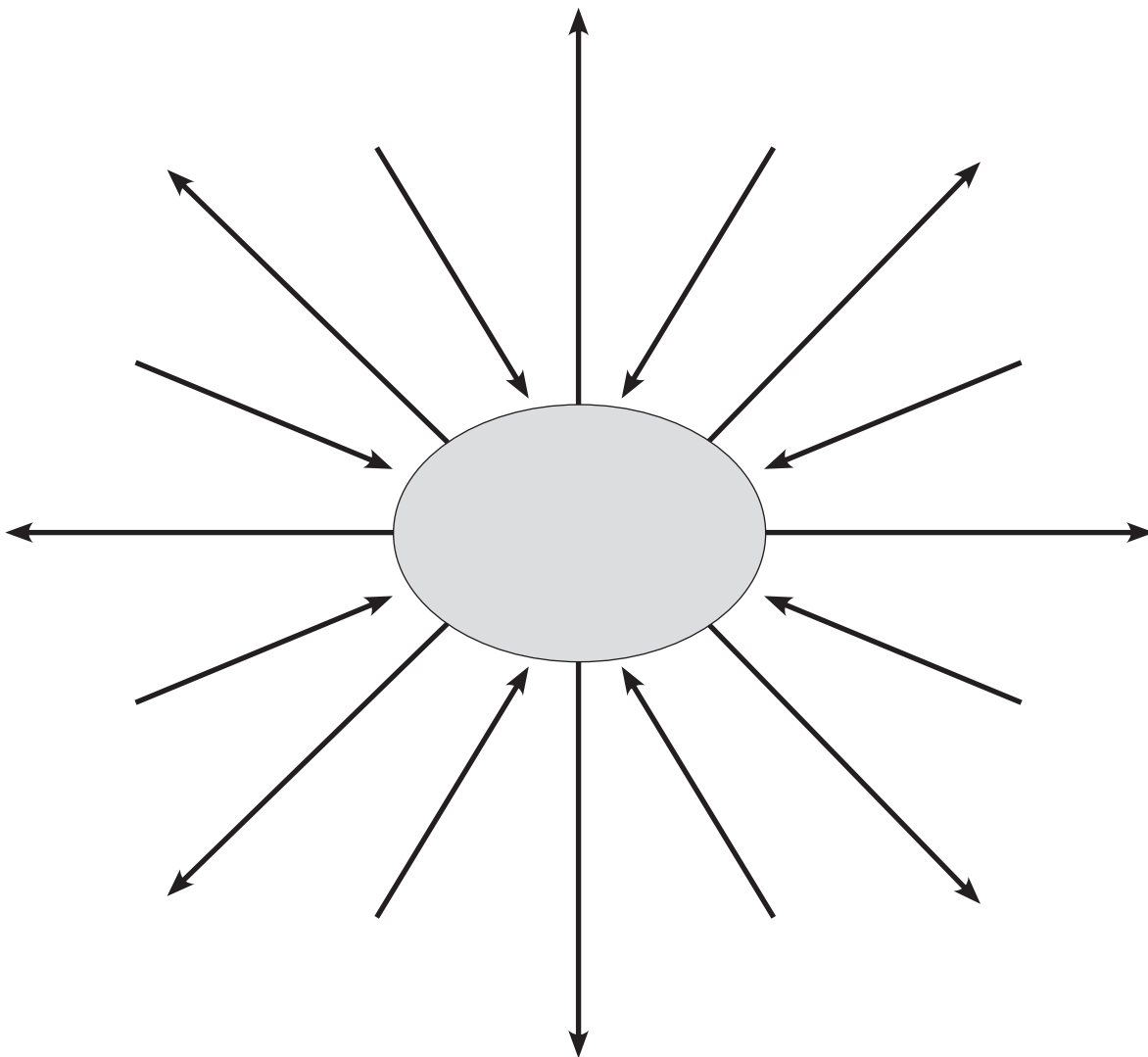
3. Debrief Group Discussions

- Ask your advisees to move into a circle and share something new or interesting that they learned about a peer's identity.
- Then ask advisees to place their identity charts in their advisory folders, because they will be using them in future activities and mini-conferences.



Starburst Identity Chart

Directions: Write your name in the circle. At the ends of the arrows pointing outward, write words or phrases that describe what you consider to be key aspects of your identity. At the ends of the arrows pointing inward, write labels that others might use to describe you. Add more arrows as needed.





Inside-Outside Identity Chart

Directions: In the first circle, write words or phrases that describe what you consider to be key aspects of your identity. In the second circle, write labels others might use to describe you. In the overlapping portion, insert any factors that fit into both categories.

What factors make up your identity?

