

Identity Chart Discussion

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

APPROXIMATE TIME:
30 minutes

MATERIALS: NONE

ADVISOR NOTES:

1. Revisit Identity Charts

In this activity, advisees will discuss personal identity charts created in Activity 20: My Identity Chart. They do not need to show their charts unless they feel comfortable doing so.

PROCEDURE:

1. Add to Personal Identity Charts

Instruct advisees to review their identity charts from the previous meeting and add any new factors to their charts that they might have considered since the group last met.

2. Discuss Identity Charts in Concentric Circles

- Explain to the group that they will be sharing aspects of their identity charts in **concentric circles** (visit facinghistory.org/advisory-media to learn about this teaching strategy). Let them know that they do not need to show their identity charts to their partners. They can just discuss the questions. Then organize your advisees into two concentric circles.
- Choose from the following questions to read aloud and/or project. Rotate one of the circles so that advisees have new partners before introducing the next question.
 - If you could pick one part of who you are that best describes you, what would it be and why?
 - What parts of your identity are you pretty sure will be with you forever? Which parts are likely to change?
 - What parts of your identity do you choose for yourself? What parts of your identity do you think are determined by others, by society, or by chance?
 - Whose opinions and beliefs have the greatest effect on how you think about your own identity?

- What is an aspect of your identity that helps you overcome tough times? What is the story of a time when that aspect of your identity helped you overcome an obstacle?
- What dilemmas arise when others view you differently than you view yourself?
- What part of your identity is most often misunderstood by other people? How do you deal with it?
- Is that an aspect of your identity that might change in the next year or two? What might cause it to change? Or is there an aspect of your identity that you would like to change, and why?

3. Debrief Concentric Circles

Sit in a group circle to debrief the concentric circles activity and discuss the following questions:

- What similarities did you discover between your identity and that of someone in our group?
- What is something interesting that you learned about someone in our group?
- What are some similarities that members of our group share?
- What are some ways in which members of our group are unique?