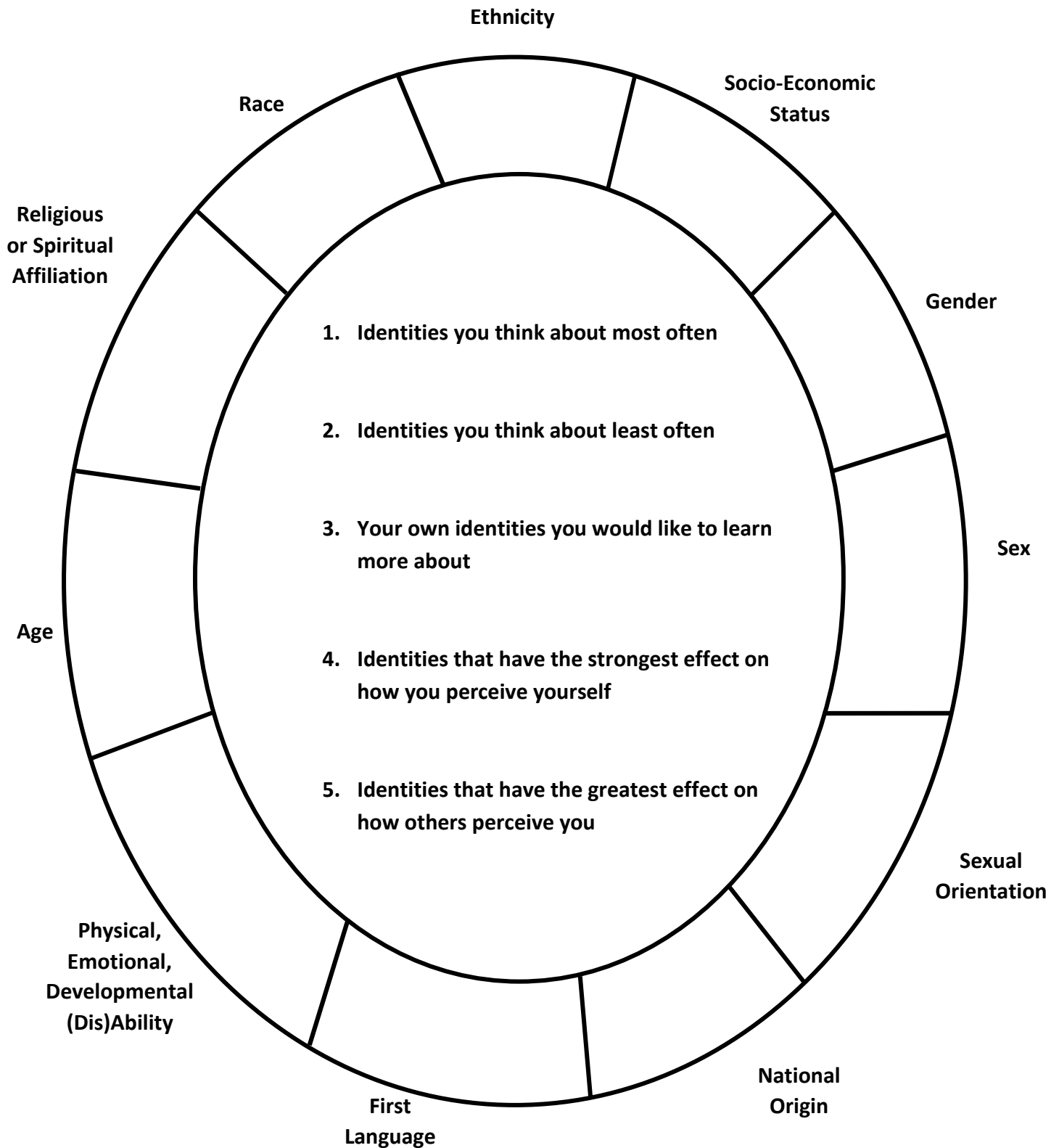


# Social Identity Wheel

<b>Overview</b>	<p>The Social Identity Wheel worksheet is an activity that encourages you to identify your social identities and reflect on the various ways those identities become visible or more keenly felt at different times, as well as how those identities impact the ways others perceive or treat you. The worksheet prompts you to fill in various social identities (such as race, gender, sex, ability/disability, sexual orientation, etc.) and further categorize those identities based on which matter most in your self-perception and which matter most in others' perception of you. The Social Identity Wheel can be used in conjunction with the Personal Identity Wheel to encourage you to reflect on the relationships and dissonances between your personal and social identities. The wheels can also be used as a prompt for reflective writing on identity by using the Spectrum Activity Questions on Identity.</p>
<b>Goals</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To encourage you to consider your identities critically and how identities are more or less keenly felt in different social contexts.</li> <li>2) To illuminate how privilege operates to normalize some identities over others. For example, an individual who speaks English as their first language can reflect on why they rarely need to think about their language as an aspect of their identity while some of their peers may identify language as the aspect of their identity they feel most keenly in meetings.</li> <li>3) To sensitize you to your shared identities with your peers as well as the diversity of identities in your classroom, building community and encouraging empathy.</li> </ol>
<b>Implementation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Review "Social Identity Groups" on the back of the page.</li> <li>2) Complete the Social Identity Wheel.</li> <li>3) Answer the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. What identities do you think about most often?</li> <li>b. What identities do you think about least often?</li> <li>c. What identities would you like to learn more about?</li> <li>d. What identities have the strongest effect on how you perceive yourself?</li> <li>e. What identities have the greatest effect on how others perceive you?</li> <li>f. Why is it important to critically reflect on our identities?</li> </ol> </li> <li>4) Complete the Personal Identity Wheel.</li> <li>5) Answer the following questions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Which components of the personal identity wheel were hard to fill out?</li> <li>b. Which personal identities, if any, are informed by your social identities?</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Materials</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Social Identity Wheel Handout</li> <li>2) Social Identity Categories</li> <li>3) Personal Identity Wheel Handout</li> <li>4) Spectrum Activity Questions</li> </ol>
<b>Citations</b>	<p>Adapted for use from the LSA Inclusive Teaching Initiative, University of Michigan (<a href="http://sites.lsa.umich.edu/inclusive-teaching/">http://sites.lsa.umich.edu/inclusive-teaching/</a>).</p>



## Social Identity Groups

Social identity groups are based on the physical, social, and mental characteristics of individuals. They are sometimes obvious and clear, sometimes not obvious and unclear, often self claimed and frequently ascribed by others. For example, racial groupings are often ascribed as well as self-claimed. Government, schools, and employers often ask an individual to claim a racial identity group or simply ascribe one to an individual based on visual perception. Other social identities are personally claimed but not often announced or easily visually ascribed such as sexual orientation, religion, or disability status.

For the purpose of this self-examination please identify the memberships you claim or those ascribed to you. Below are examples of social identity groupings. Since issues of social identity often are the basis of much social conflict, it is reasonable to expect that even the terms we use to describe them may cause disagreement. So feel free to use your own preferred terms for the material below.

### **Examples**

(Feel free to use your own language for your identities.)

Gender	Woman, Man, Transgender, Post-Gender
Sex	Intersex, Female, Male
Race	Asian Pacific Islander, Native American, Latin@, Black, White, Bi/Multiracial
Ethnicity	Irish, Chinese, Puerto Rican, Italian, Mohawk, Jewish, Guatemalan, Lebanese, European-American
Sexual Orientation/	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Pan-Attractional, Heterosexual, Queer, Attractionality, Questioning
Religion/Spirituality Faith/Meaning, Atheist, Secular	Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian, Pagan, Agnostic, Humanist
Social Class	Poor, Working Class, Lower-Middle Class, Upper-Middle Class, Owning Class, Ruling Class
Age	Child, Young Adult, Middle-Age Adult, Senior
(Dis)Ability	People with disabilities (cognitive, physical, emotional, etc.), Temporarily able-bodied, Temporarily disabled
Nation(s) of Origin and/or Citizenship	United States, Nigeria, Korea, Turkey, Argentina
Tribal or Indigenous Affiliation	Mohawk, Aboriginal, Navajo, Santal
Body Size/ Type	Fat, Person of Size, Thin

**Marginalized Group:** social identity groups that are disenfranchised and exploited

**Privileged Group:** social identity groups that hold unearned privileged in society

Three Adjectives to Describe Yourself

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name

Favorite Music

One Skill you are Proud of

Favorite Movie

Favorite Book

Favorite Food

Favorite Hobby

Favorite Color

Personal Motto

Number of Siblings

Birth Order

## **Spectrum Activity Questions**

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 most often?
10. For what part of your identity do you feel you receive privilege most often?
11. Which of your identities would you like to learn more about?
12. Which identities have the strongest effect on how you see yourself as a person?
13. What part of your identity do you see as having the most effect on your interactions with students?
14. What part of students' identities do you most often see affecting their interactions with you?
15. What part of your identity do you see as having the most effect on your interactions with co-workers/peers?