



1.2 What Identities are Important to Us?

Suggested Grade Level: 6-8

Time: 15 minutes

Subject Area: Identities and Community building

Overview:

The beginning of the school year is important for cultivating community for GSAs. This activity is designed to be a good introduction to students having multiple identities and to assist them in getting to know one another. This is an activity that does not have to be done on the first GSA meeting of the year, but it is suggested to conduct this activity towards the beginning of the year.

Goals:

- Students will be introduced to understanding their multiple identities
- Students will begin to develop an identity as a GSA, and see what identities the group find important to them.

Materials:

- Large sheets of paper/construction paper
- Markers
- Stickers

Procedure:

Step One:

Take larger sheets of paper or construction paper and write the following identities and hang them around the room:

- Gender
- Student
- Sibling/Family
- Sexual Orientation
- Race
- Language

Step Two:

Give each student four stickers and tell them to place a sticker on the identities that are important to them. They only get four-The purpose of this activity is to both show how students have to prioritize which identities are prominent for them depending on the situation and also begins to develop a group identity for the GSA. IF one has access to the internet, turn on some fun tunes-preferably

Step Three:

After all students place their stickers, ask them how they felt about the activity. Was it hard to choose just four aspects of themselves? Was there an identity that was easy to put a sticker on? One that was hard?

After a brief discussion, look at the identities that have the most stickers on them, and ask the students what their thoughts are on so many students choosing this identity as important. At the end of this exercise, keep the posters for the GSA to have at further meetings.