

Unpacking our Social Identities

Dominant/Narrative Culture Cultural values, beliefs, and practices that are assumed to be the most common, “true,” and influential within a given society.

Counter Narratives Truths and experiences that arise from the vantage point of those who have been historically marginalized. These can be a collection or individual experiences that run against the Dominant Narrative or dominant stereotype about their group.

Instructions: Circle which identity construct group you identify with in each category below

Dominant Group	Social Construct Category	Marginalized Group
Age 30 to 59	Age	Younger or older
White	Race	Non-White
Male	Sex	Female or intersex
Gender binary (male or female)	Gender Identity & Gender Expression	Gender non-conforming, gender queer, transgender
Straight	Sexual Orientation	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, questioning
Upper class or upper middle class	Social-Economic Status	Working class or living in poverty
College degree and/or private education	Education	High school degree, GED and/or public school education
Native English-speaking	Language	English not primary or speak with an accent
Christian	Religion/Spirituality	Non-Christian
Born a U.S. citizen	Citizenship	Born outside the U.S. and/or not a U.S. citizen
Able-bodied (free of disability)	Ability	Physical, mental, emotional, or learning disabilities or living with a chronic illness
Thin, slender – fit society's image of attractive, beautiful, handsome, athletic	Body Size/Image	Person of size, perceived by others as fat, tall, short, unattractive or not athletic

Consider an identity:

- You feel proud about
- You think frequently about
- That has given you a professional advantage
- That has been a barrier
- That you feel comfortable talking and sharing stories about
- You minimize or don't talk about at work
- You wish others understood better

How might your own social identities impact your perception of your students?

What steps can you take to better understand how their social identities may impact their performance and interactions during experiential learning?