

Activity: Social identities

Addresses: Intercultural dimension.

Aims/Intended Learning Outcomes:

Activity 1. Objective:

- ▶ To become familiar with the concepts of *social identity* and *social categorisation*.

Students develop awareness of how we categorise groups in society and the labels we use to describe them.

Time required: depending on the group size. Small teams are formed (3 to 4 students) to conduct the activity, each team is allowed to use around 5 to 10 minutes for their activity.

Group size: At least two teams are required - the minimum size would then be 6. No maximum size limit.

Context/setting: In the classroom.

Description:

1. At the start of the session students are asked to form groups of 3 to 4 people.
2. In each group participants reflect on the social groups they belong to and explain the reasons why they feel a part of them and the characteristics that define each group. They are asked to list five groups to which they belong.
3. During the session each team will then present their findings to the rest of the teams and discussion of all their findings ensues.
4. The group will finally say if they have actually learnt to do what was suggested.

Variations:

Materials needed: Images of social groups.

Behind the activity: Instigate debate and thought about how we perceive ourselves and others and the use of wide sweeping labels for groups in society. Special importance is given to how language constructs society and society

constructs language.

Inspired by: Prior work on immigration and communication and the difficulties immigrants face in a new social setting, especially concerning their identity, used previously with social workers and legal professionals.

Any other comments: