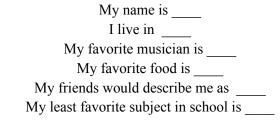Audrey Ledbetter & Tyler Munowitz
Lesson 2: identity

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Goals

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- Introduce the metaphysical problem of object identity and personal identity over time
  - Discuss identity inconsistencies at any moment (FaceBook, LinkedIn, etc.)

Discussion

- Make something with legos and then slowly replace all the pieces(remove/replace bricks)
  - Is this the same object as it was when we began? If not, when does this become not the same thing?
  - This is the identity of an object over time
  - If we agree that an object is the same thing over time, what is it that makes it the same?
- Transition to personal identity: is a person the same thing over time in the way that an object is?
  - How is this similar or different to objects?
  - If they say yes, consider the following hypotheticals:
    - If someone has a prosthetic leg are they the same person before and after?
    - If someone's brain is damaged and their personality entirely changes, are they the same person?
  - Notebook activity:

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My name is ____
I live in ____
My favorite musician is ____
My favorite food is ____
My friends would describe me as ____
My least favorite subject in school is ____

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  - Now suppose we take away all of these traits. Are you still the same person?
    - Note that we have made no physical alterations
  - Suppose in 10 years, your answers to these are different, are you still the same person?
    - You change your name for professional reasons, you relocate for a job, you grow fond of jazz, your taste buds now have preference for southern food, you can't find time to see your friends so they start to see you differently, math is now your favorite subject because you use it at your job
    - If you do think you are the same, what makes you the same?

- Our previous discussion has been about personal identity over time, but what about personal identity in only the present? Are you a unified person?
  - Social media—do you present yourself differently on different platforms? Is there a unifying quality?

- - ■ If they say you are a different person in different contexts: Which one is *actually* you? Have our online representations become more important/authentic than the physical world?
  - ○ Would your answers to the six above questions change depending on what context you are in?