

Free Choice 1 Lesson Plan: Personal Identity

Materials: Paper doll outlines, markers, clipboards, paper doll costumes, *The Important Book*, paper, scissors

Learning objectives: Have the students analyze their intuitions about how presentation changes self-perception, question gender presentation, stereotypes/assumptions, maybe think about their own personal “essential properties”

1. Intros

- a. Do Zoe and Ruth look different today? (Zoe and Ruth have swapped clothes)
 - i. Is Zoe Ruth? Is Ruth Zoe?
 - ii. Why or why not?
- b. Go around the circle and say one thing that people can tell by looking at you, and one thing that they can't tell by looking at you.
- c. Example: “You can tell by looking at me that I am a young adult, but you can't tell that I'm really bad at baking”

Movement Break!

2. Baby Pictures

- a. Show students our baby pictures
 - i. Who is who?
- b. What is different about us now than from when we were babies?
- c. Are we the same people?
 - i. Why or why not?
 - ii. What makes us the same/different?

3. Paper Doll Activity

- a. Give the students an outline of a person
 - i. Have the students fill in the person so it looks like them (7 minutes)
 - ii. How can we tell that it's you? Is it your hair color? Eye color? Are you wearing a special sweater?
- b. Give the students cut-outs of different clothes (Unicorn/rainbow shirt, train shirt, Mario shirt, pajamas, Ballerina dress, suit, chefs hat, long red wig, spiky blue wig)
 - i. Ask for volunteers, and put the different outfits on different dolls

- ii. Does *this article of clothing* make you different?
 - 1. Why or why not?
- iii. Do we think people are different because they wear different clothes?
Because they have different hair?
 - 1. Why or why not?
- iv. Let kids dress their dolls how they want, and play around with them

4. The Important Book

- a. Read book
- b. What do you think of this book? Do you agree/disagree with the most important things that they said?
 - i. Special focus on the most important parts of you
 - ii. Does everything have one most important part?
 - iii. Go through the book and discuss if they got the important parts right/wrong
- c. What do you think is the most important part of you?
 - i. Draw it on a piece of paper, cut it out, and put it on your doll!
- d. What's the most important part of one of your friends? Of us?
 - i. Is the most important part of Ruth her crocodile sweatshirt?
 - ii. Would your friends agree that that's the most important part of them?

5. Conclusion

- a. What's something you learned today?
 - i. Do you feel differently about yourself? About anything else?
- b. What was your favorite part?



