

PEOPLE: Sam S., Jazmyne, Sophia, Oliver  
2/9

Animal activity: 5 min  
Notebook pt 1: 5 min  
Ship of theseus: 5 min  
Notebook pt 2: 5 min  
Discussion: 15 min  
Wrapup: 5 min  
Total: 40 out of 45 min

## IDENTITY

**Essential Question:** What is personal *identity*? What makes you who you are?

**Objective:** Consider the factors that encompass our identities and how said identities may shift over time.

**Introduction:** (10 minutes total)

- Ask each student, “If you were an animal, what animal would you be?”
  - Why did you choose that animal? Why?
  - How do you identify with those characteristics?
1. Give them the notebooks. Instruct each student to answer these questions: (5 minutes)
    - a. What makes you, you? (at least six words)
      - i. Thinking about:
        1. How do you define yourself?
        2. What makes you different from everyone else?

**Thought Experiment/Discussion Catalyst:** Ship of Theseus (10 minutes)

- Explanation of ^ (5 minutes)
- Real World Versions
  - cells/bio, haircut, growing, amputation
- Question: Your own Identity?
- Drastic Changes to the Individual
  - memory/personality changes(dementia, TBI)
- Minor Changes to the Individual
  - Everybody’s personality changes over time
  - Becoming more patient with age

- Getting rich, acting different

Notebook exercise (cont.)

2. Have each student cross out things that weren't true of him/herself 5 years ago.
3. Have each student cross out things that they can imagine being different in five years.
4. Ask the students: How many people crossed out at least one thing? Here's the question: Were you still you five years ago? Will you still be you in 50 years?
  - a. Let's say they answer "yes"... then raise an objection: Well what about you has to stay the same from one point in your life to another?

**Discussion:** Does it matter? (15 minutes)

- Continuity of identity is interesting, but do our feelings on identity change how we act or how we feel about ourselves?
  - future/past actions: different person
    - 'That's Sunday me's problem'
      - Present is the only thing that exists?
    - 'I was a different person back then'
  - Dementia is a real thing
    - 'How do we feel about loved ones who have Alzheimer's?'
    - 'What if I end up with dementia?'
- Examination of Previous Statements
  - Students look back at their own answers
    - What does identity mean to them?
    - Are there any contradictions in their answers?

WRAP UP: (5 minutes)

- How this is philosophy.
- This is an introduction to metaphysics & explain what metaphysics is.

POSSIBLE PARTS OF IDENTITY:

- Purpose
- Body
- Consciousness
- Memories
- Relationships
- Social function

- Personality
- Desire