How Do You Teach Diversity

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**Intersectionality and Our Shared Identities**

**Theoretical Overview:** Intersectionality is an effort to examine how no one person is simply a member of one particular group and/or cultural identity:

* A concept that helps us generate a deeper, more complex understanding of people’s lives
* Used to understand how race, gender, ability, sexuality, nationality and other cultural elements simultaneously operate to produce a specific person

The following is a non-exhaustive list of some of the more salient aspects to our cultural identities:

* Abilities
  + Able-bodied vs disabled
* Age
  + Feelings of ageism
* Gender
  + Transgendered, non-binary, cis-gendered
* Nationality and transnationalism
* Sexual Orientation
* Socioeconomic Status
* Spirituality
* Education level
* Regionalism/geographic influences

**Activity:** For this activity, students need index cards.   
Prior to class students need to list on each card one aspect of their cultural identity (e.g., on one card a student would list “Female” and on a second card list “Latino-American”). Students to use as many cards as they need to thoroughly identify who they are; the more the better.

During the next class, students should bring their cards. They should walk around the classroom and match up each identity with the other students who also share those identities. Once matched, students are encouraged to have a discussion about these shared identity traits.

**Learning Objective:** This activity should reveal that while some identities are visible and easily recognizable (e.g., perhaps gender), others are less recognizable (e.g., religion or disabilities).