

3

Identity Self Portrait

STEPS:

1. Discuss with students the theme of identity and how different artists portray identity in their work.
2. Practice drawing eyes, nose, mouth using value and blending. You can use the small handheld mirrors from your art cabinet.
3. Brainstorm ideas, sketch out symbols, patterns, and images to portray identity.
4. Give students drawing paper. Have them draw in their face using pencil. Using charcoal, add value. Then color in the background with images, patterns, and symbols of their cultural identity.

Materials:

- drawing paper
- charcoal pencils
- stomps
- eraser
- colored pencils
- Optional: worksheets available

Note: This project gets a "3" rating because it requires students to think, write, and draw about their cultural identity. This project might take several days to complete, it's up to you how much time to dedicate.

Additional Instruction

This project can be as simple or complex as you'd like. Make it work for you. Below are a few suggestions of what you can do. There is no right or wrong way to do this.

1. To practice proportion and placement, sketch the simple shapes for the head, neck and shoulders. For advanced students, talk about the 'golden ratio' and use "Place the Face Worksheet" (see back for advanced option.)

2. To practice the eyes, nose, and mouth, hand out the small handheld mirrors from your art cabinet and/or use the included "Stages of the Eyes, Nose, Mouth" worksheet.

3. To help students think about their cultural identity, use the "Exploring Cultural Identity" worksheet. Reference Frida Kahlo's self portraits and how she used the negative space in her paintings to communicate her identity.

4. If you'd prefer to spend more time on identity (decorating the background) and less time on self portrait drawing, use a black and white photo. Print it out and have and have students cut and paste that onto their drawings. Reference Kehinde Wile and how he uses patterns and body poses to communicate identity.

5. If you want to teach students about gridding, math, proportion and using rulers, have students grid a printed photo and grid a larger piece of paper, copying the image from one square to another.