



IDENTITY EXPLORER - judging a book by its cover...



You can use this activity in your classroom or training sessions to get students and/or teachers thinking about issues relating to identity and diverse communities.

- 1. Think of yourself as the cover of a book! What would others notice based on optics alone?**
 - a. Your gender
 - b. Your age
 - c. Your race
 - d. Your religion - (eg. do you have any significant articles of faith?)
 - e. Your profession - (eg. do you wear a uniform?)
 - f. Your marital status - (eg. do you wear a wedding ring?)

- 2. Now think of the content of the book - what did they miss?**
 - a. Could anything information gleaned by looking at your cover be erroneous or mistaken?
 - b. Would it speak about your values?
 - c. Would it speak to your belief system?
 - d. Would they know the experiences that shaped you?
 - e. Would they know about your family background?
 - f. Would they know about your future hopes and dreams?
 - g. Could they tell what languages you speak?
 - h. Do they know what your hobbies are?
 - i. Can they tell what your education and profession is?

- 3. Reflecting on (1) and (2) above:**
 - a. Are we correct in making assumptions based on someone's outward appearance? Should we really 'judge a book by its cover'?
 - b. Do stereotypes or biases play a role when judging people based on their outward appearance?
 - c. If someone has visible articles of faith, does that put them in the 'bad guys' camp?
 - d. How can we build meaningful relationships? How can we understand and get to know people better?