

Selfie#Selfie#Collage#Me

Based on the project **The Soul(s) Of**, exhibited at Photoville from September 13-23, 2018 in Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Students will reflect on their public/private identities, and create a collage-based self-portrait.

Students will be able to:

- Use various art techniques such as photography, collage and social media
- Create a self-portrait collage related to identity
- Discuss their artwork in the context of the theme
- Write about themselves through the lens of identity

Session 1: Intro

1. Have a group discussion on the topic of private versus public identity. Here are some sample prompts for discussion:
 - How do you present yourself when you're home versus out in the world?
 - What are characteristics that you emphasize when you're in the public? What are characteristics that come out only when you're with your friends and family?
 - Think of a notable celebrity and describe their public identity. If you had the chance to sit with the celebrity one on one, what are some questions you would ask them?
 - How does social media shape our public vs private identities?
2. Lead students through the process of creating an identity web by modeling your own.
3. Ask students to create their own identity web. The requirements are that they show their public versus private identity. They can also have a space that overlaps the two. Other than that, encourage them to be creative with the format and layout.

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Featuring photography by
Makeba Rainey

Grade Level: 6th - 12th grade,
Adults

Subjects: Art, Photography,
English Language Arts

Time Required: 4-6 sessions

Key Images:

- [The Soul\(s\) of Image Bank](#)

Materials Needed:

- Camera or cell phone
- Printer
- Teaching Strategy: Identity Web
- Collage Materials

Additional Resources:

photoville.com/edu

Standards Addressed:

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.WHST.6-8.4

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4. Explain to them that the identity map they create will be private. This is only for their use to brainstorm for their collage.
 5. Here are some prompts for their identity web:
 - What are your colors?
 - What characteristics define you?
 - What is your role in your family or community?
 - What are your hobbies and interests?
 - What is your background?
 6. Ask students to review their identity web. Circle the 3 most important components of their private identities. Circle the 3 most important components of their public identity.
 7. Have students write a paragraph summarizing their identity web.
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Session 2 & 3: Activity

- 1. Introduce the students to Makeba Rainey's work, showing one person who is a well-known public figure and then someone who is not as well known. First show them the portrait of Martin Luther King Jr.. Ask them the following questions:
 - How does this portrait of Martin Luther King Jr. differ from others you have seen in the past?
 - What do the colors and patterns remind you of? How do they make you feel?
 - What do you think was the artist's intention in creating this collage?
 2. Then, show them the portrait of Nicole, and ask them the following questions.
 - Do you know who the person portrayed in this collage is?
 - What can you tell from her stance? From the colors and patterns the artist uses?
 - What does her quote tell you about her?
 3. Students will make their own self-portrait collage based on their identity. Based on the focus, and the resources in your classroom, decide on the requirements of the collage. For example, students may make a digital collage, or use their hands. They may paint the collage, or cut and assemble found textures and patterns.
 4. In designing the collage, ask students to think about:
 - The scale of their image in relation to the background
 - The colors that represent them
 - The patterns and symbols that represent them
 5. Once students are finished with the visual collage, ask them to attach their paragraph about their identity.
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Session 4: Share

1. Create space for students to share their self-portrait collages through a gallery walk, or a presentation.
2. Have students pair up and share:
 - Why they chose the colors and patterns to represent them?
 - What are the qualities and characteristics they were trying to show in their self-portrait?
 - What did they enjoy and/or find challenging about creating a self-portrait collage