

SIMILARITIES

1



Gender 

SIMILARITIES

Mind

Body

Heart

Soul

“As far as I’m concerned being any gender is a drag.”

Patti Smith

Reflection

Would it be possible to have a society without gender? If so, what might it look like?

Action

Write a poem or short story describing a job interview or a first date in a genderless society.

SIMILARITIES

2



Gender



SIMILARITIES

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“Gender is between your ears and not between your legs.”

Chaz Bono

Reflection

What does this statement mean? Are there other parts of the body that could influence gender? What parts of the body are affected by gender?

Action

Find or create an outline of a human body. Use one color to show what part or parts of the body create gender. Use one or more different colors to show which, if any, parts of the body change according to gender.

SIMILARITIES

3



Gender 

SIMILARITIES

Mind

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Heart

Soul

“You just wish sometimes that people would treat you like a human being rather than seeing your gender first and who you are second.”

Frances O’Grady

Reflection

Have you ever had the feeling that people made assumptions about you based on gender? Do you think that you have made assumptions based on gender?

Action

Find or create an image that represents a gender. Set a timer for one minute. In that time write all of the words that come to mind about that gender. Now, on the reverse side, give yourself two minutes to write words that might apply to that image but might not fit with the usual ideas about the gender shown in the image.

SIMILARITIES

4



SIMILARITIES

Mind

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“You can only lie about who you are for so long without going crazy.”

Ellen Wittlinger

Reflection

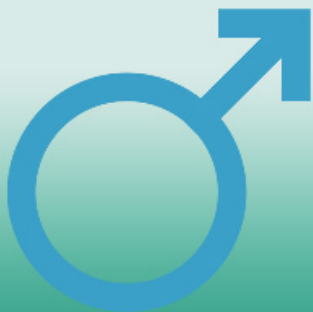
People sometimes feel as if they have to lie so they appear to be like those around them. What, if any damage, do you think this could do to a person? Can you imagine a world where that kind of deception is not necessary?

Action

With a partner, write a short scene in which two people meet for the first time and discover that they are both transgender. Can you act out this scene for others?

DIFFERENCES

5



Gender



DIFFERENCES

Mind

Body

Heart

Soul

“I find the question of whether gender differences are biologically determined or socially constructed to be deeply disturbing.”

Carol Gilligan

Reflection

Can you tell from the quote whether the author believes that gender is biologically determined or socially constructed? Do you find the question intriguing? Do you have an opinion on the issue?

Action

Find a partner or create two teams to debate the issue of whether/to what extent gender is biologically determined or socially constructed. Give each team three minutes to make an argument; then switch positions. Have a discussion about the merits of the arguments.

DIFFERENCES

6



DIFFERENCES

Mind

Body

Heart

Soul

“A lot of kids are bullied because of their sexual identity or expression. It’s often the effeminate boys and the masculine girls, the ones who violate gender norms or expectations who get bullied.”

Dan Savage

Reflection

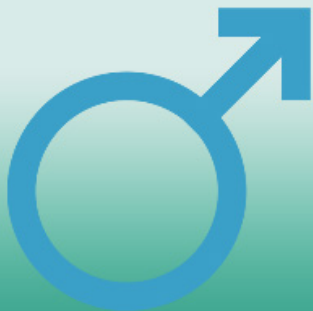
Why do you think people bully those they believe are not like them? Where gender is concerned, do you think it’s possible that gender differences inspire a particular kind of fear?

Action

Write a short story of a bullying experience. Include the perspective of the bully and the perspective of the person being bullied.

DIFFERENCES

7



Gender 

DIFFERENCES

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Soul

“My gender is not all that unique or special. My gender is not all that queer or all that different. My identity is not about men or women. It’s about me, about how I understand myself, how I live my life, how others understand me, and what makes sense.”

Kae

Reflection

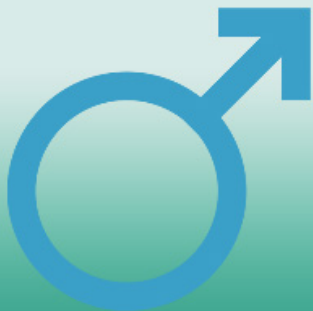
To what extent is gender part of your identity? Does it vary from day to day? Is it flexible or a constant?

Action

With a partner or a group, create a situation in which gender is an important part of social interaction. Have one person take the role of someone who feels different from the group. Discuss the interactions.

DIFFERENCES

8



Gender



DIFFERENCES

Mind

Body

Heart

Soul

“I am invisible not because I fear looking like every other person of my gender but because I fear what will happen if I don’t.”

Pat Greene

Reflection

It can be dangerous to look or act differently than others. Does it have an effect on you to disappear into a crowd or to pretend to be someone you are not?

Action

Find or take a picture of someone you don’t know. Quickly write down ten words that describe the person. How many of those have something to do with the person’s gender?

BELONGING

9



BELONGING

Mind

Body

Heart

Soul

“The power I exert on the court depends on the power of my arguments, not on my gender.”

Former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor

Reflection

Are there situations where gender is irrelevant? Is it possible that our minds are more powerful than other aspects of our identity?

Action

Debate, with a friend, the statement: “Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything.”

George Bernard Shaw

BELONGING

10



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BELONGING

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“I was clad not exactly as a boy but, rather confusingly, as the boy I would have been, had I been more of a girl.”

Sarah Waters

Reflection

What do you think this means? Why do you think gender is so confusing to people?

Action

Create a photo collage of images that are not easily classified by gender norms.

BELONGING

11



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“Belonging starts with self-acceptance. Your level of belonging in fact, can never be greater than your level of self-acceptance, because believing that you’re enough is what gives you the courage to be authentic, vulnerable, and imperfect.”

Brene Brown

Reflection

Believing that you’re enough involves accepting aspects of who you are that are not always felt or seen as positive. Do you think it takes courage to accept these often difficult parts of yourself?

Action

Divide a paper into two columns. At the top of one write “I am”; for the other write “I am not.” List the first ten things that come to mind for each heading. Put a mark by the things that you could change. Would you want to change them?

BELONGING

12



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“We’re all a little weird and life’s a little weird. And when we find someone whose weirdness is compatible with ours, we join up with them and fall in mutual weirdness and call it love.”

Dr. Seuss

Reflection

Can you imagine a world without a little weirdness? What would that be like? Would you like to live in such a world?

Action

With a partner, make a collage or draw a weird creature. Does the creature make you laugh? Does it scare you? What was your conversation like while you were deciding what weirdness to include?

ACCEPTANCE

13



Gender



ACCEPTANCE

Mind

Body

Heart

Soul

“I want to live in a world where I am free to be whoever I want to be whenever I want to be, male, female, other, or neither.”

Unknown

Reflection

Would you like to live in a world where all people were accepted regardless of their gender? Would it be more or less interesting than the world you live in?

Action

Create a spoken word performance about gender acceptance. Perform it for a friend or a group.

ACCEPTANCE

14



Gender



ACCEPTANCE

Mind

Body

Heart

Soul

“I was not ladylike, nor was I manly. I was something else altogether. There were so many different ways to be beautiful.”

Michael Cunningham

Reflection

Some people feel very comfortable with the gender assigned to them at birth, while others experience a more fluid feeling about gender. What kinds of things might influence how people define their gender?

Action

Using words, photos, or a combination, create a spectrum of gender expression, from very fixed on one end to very fluid on the other. Where do you fit?

ACCEPTANCE

15



Gender



ACCEPTANCE

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“I love the women’s movement, and I never thought of it as belonging to any particular segment of the population.”

Alice Walker

Reflection

How could the women’s movement be applied to men or transgender people? Do you agree that it doesn’t belong just to women?

Action

Write or draw five things you know or believe about the women’s movement. Do any of them apply only to women?

ACCEPTANCE

16



Gender



ACCEPTANCE

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“We have a responsibility to be better to each other, and accept each others’ differences regardless of sexual orientation, gender, identity, race, ability, or religion and stand up for someone when they’re bullied.”

Daniel Radcliffe

Reflection

Do we have a responsibility to each other? How far does that responsibility extend? To family? Neighbors? Strangers? Enemies?

Action

Think of a situation in which you could have treated someone better than you did. Write a new version of that story and describe what you would do differently if given a second chance.