

Playing with Identity

1.) Write down one sentence about what an aspect of your identity means to you and why it is of value.

Some examples:

"I appreciate being Jewish because the tradition helps me view the world with empathy."

"I am proud to call myself a poet because art is important."

2.) Think of a time when you needed to stand up for, or share about, this part of your identity.

This might be a time when you had to defend it.

Or

It might be a time when you wanted to help somebody understand it.

Or

It might be a time when you needed to overcome an assumption about it and yourself.

3.) Identify who the major players in the story are.

Some examples:

"This story includes me, my best friend, and somebody we just met named Alan."

"I am in conversation with a family member who lives far away."

4.) Write down, in no more than two sentences, where this took place.

Some examples:

"We are standing in a courtyard outside school."

"I am looking out at the city from the top floor of a building. There are friends sitting on the couch behind me."

I-TELL-YOU

for teen and young adult learners



5.) On a piece of paper, below that description of place, write down the first thing that you or one of the other players in the story said that kicked the interaction into high gear.

Some examples:

"I disagree with you."

"Tell me more because I don't understand."

"I think you know what I'm talking about."

6.) Write down a response from either yourself or another person in the story.

Some examples:

"Well, you may disagree, but I'm correct."

"I'll tell you more. I hope you will listen."

"I do. But I seem not to get it. Why don't you enlighten me."

7.) Skip three pages. Write down the last thing you or someone else said.

Some examples:

"Well, I'm glad we got that resolved."

"I need to leave now, but we'll continue this another time."

"That's still not the case, but I'm not sure what else to say."

8.) Take 15 minutes to fill in the middle with dialogue (you and the other characters talking to each other). The only rule is that at some point in the scene, a character must say the one sentence you wrote earlier about what your identity means to you and why it is of value.

9.) Read your scene.

Maybe ask a friend to read it with you to learn what it says about being in dialogue about what you believe and who you are.