



Self and Identity Merit Badge

"THIS IS WHO I AM, THIS IS HOW I SEE MYSELF, THIS IS WHO I WANT TO BE."

— RIKI WILCHINS, *QUEER THEORY, GENDER THEORY*

[ON CONCEPTS THAT ARE FUNDAMENTAL TO IDENTITY]

Self: The concept of YOU as an individual, with interests, character traits, and feelings

Identity: The considered and accepted morals, ideologies, and allegiances that are integrated into the self

Requirements

1. Take the Twenty Statements Test (designed by Kuhn & McPartland, 1954) by filling in twenty words or statements after the phrase "I am...". When you're finished, take some time to look over your responses. Which statements are most important to who you are? Which statements refer to you as an individual and which refer to you as a member of a group? Choose three of the statements and write a response about how they contribute to your self-image.
2. Choose one categorical trait that describes you (i.e. your gender, race, social class, nationality, etc.) and talk with a friend or family member about the social assumptions that accompany this trait. What sorts of negative stereotypes are associated with this trait?

- a) Write a few sentences about why you think stereotypes about this category exist.
- b) Brainstorm some ways that these stereotypes, both negative and positive, could be extinguished.

3. Many identity traits don't fit into small and neat boxes; instead, they can overlap and become entangled with one another. Draw a diagram, model, or picture of some aspect(s) of identity that you think fit this description. Be sure to use color, shape, and size to illustrate your point. Embrace your creativity!

Then, choose ONE of the following options:

4. Design a sophisticated "show-and-tell" for your troop in which members bring in objects that they feel represent some aspect of their identity. Discuss whose objects represented similar or different themes from your own.
5. Design a personalized logo for this badge. What sorts of images or words would be at the center of your logo and displayed most prominently, and which images or words would be on the periphery? Are there some words or images you might not choose to include if this logo were made public? Why or why not?



Gender Studies Merit Badge

"INSTEAD OF TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHO COUNTS SOCIALLY AS A MAN OR WOMAN, PEOPLE TURN TO SCIENCE, TRYING TO USE THE BIOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR MALE TO DEFINE A MAN AND THE BIOLOGICAL CRITERIA FOR FEMALE TO DEFINE A WOMAN. HOWEVER, THE DEFINITION OF SOCIAL CATEGORIES RESTS WITH SOCIETY, NOT SCIENCE, AND SOCIAL CATEGORIES CAN'T BE MADE TO COINCIDE WITH BIOLOGICAL CATEGORIES EXCEPT BY FIAT. "
~ JOAN ROUGHGARDEN, *EVOLUTION'S RAINBOW*

Gender Studies = Study of Gender Roles + Gender Identity

Gender identity: "the sameness, unity, and persistence of one's individuality as male, female, or ambivalent"

Gender roles: "Everything that a person says and does to indicate to others or to the self the degree to which one is either male, or female, or ambivalent"

- Money & Ehrhardt (1972) in Jordan-Young's *BrainStorm*

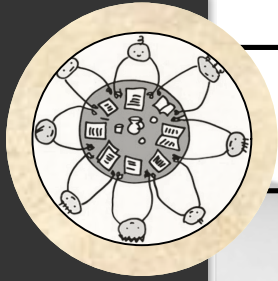
Requirements

1. Consider your own gender identity. In several paragraphs respond to the following questions: do you have one, definitively? If you do, what characteristics help to define your gender? How do others know you are of that gender? Do you feel there are some misconceptions about people of your gender? Some stereotypes you feel are grounded in truth or some that you feel are completely inaccurate?
2. Research some facts about reproduction and gender in the animal kingdom. Find and list...
 - (2) species in which the male partner is the

primary caregiver for a baby during prenatal development and/or infancy
(2) animals that can reproduce asexually
(4) animals that have been known to mate with others of the same sex in their species

Then, respond with several ideas (bullet or paragraph form) about the purpose of this exercise. How can practices in the animal kingdom influence our thinking about gender?

3. Interview someone that identifies as a different gender than you do. Be sure to tell your subject what kinds of questions you will be asking so that they have a chance to decline if they are not comfortable sharing. During your interview, be sure to ask them why they feel they are the gender they are, when they first knew that they were this gender, the role that they feel gender plays in their life, and any other questions you think are important.
4. Write a thoughtful response to your interview. Your response should include:
 - a) What you were expecting to find.
 - b) If your data is different than what you expected, what surprised you or made you think?



Conflict Resolution Merit Badge

Learning to peacefully and constructively facilitate the elimination of conflict

Requirements

1. Carefully read your troop's pre-approved manual on how to be a fair and effective mediator. Have a discussion with your troop leader about what you've learned. Be sure to bring up any questions you have related to mediation.
2. Reflect on the last argument you had with someone. What started the disagreement? How escalated did it become? What could you have done differently to avoid a hostile conversation, if anything?
3. Conflict resolution is founded in constructive problem solving. While conflicts often take the form of a disagreement between two or more people, conflicts can also arise between a person and society. For example, you might say that people who are blind have a conflict with society's standardized form of written language that is partially resolved by Braille, or that people who are deaf have a conflict with spoken language that is partially resolved by sign language.

Brainstorm some other examples of societal conflicts that a person might face, and choose one you're interested in resolving. Then do AT LEAST one of the following:

- a) Spend an afternoon with an adult who faces the conflict you're interested in. Talk with them about the difficulties they face and the ways in which they think their conflict can be resolved.
 - b) Design a pamphlet outlining the conflict that this population faces. Include the ways in which you think it can be resolved and what others can do to help, and be sure to list some informational resources.
 - c) Become involved in some sort of service activity or movement of activism that relates to this conflict and reflect on your experiences.
5. Cyber bullying has become a significant problem in today's technology-based world. Find two articles related to incidents of cyber bullying and compare and contrast them. Was there a specific reason that these individuals were bullied? Discuss some reasons Internet communication is not ideal for confrontation.

"COMMUNICATIVE ETHICS IS NOT SIMPLY A MATTER OF DIALOGUE. CRITICAL ENGAGEMENT REQUIRES ACTION AND REFLECTION, ACTION ON ISSUES OF JUSTICE WITH (NOT FOR) MEMBERS OF ANOTHER COMMUNITY..."

- SHARON WELCH, "THE ETHIC OF CONTROL"