

Super Hero Diversity Activity

Ask each student to write on an index card an interest or skill that they would be reluctant to share with friends. Make clear this is anonymous and students should be honest. The cards will all go into one bag.

Redistribute the cards to the same class. (It's OK if a student receives her own card, but, if possible, you'll want to avoid this.)

Then instruct each student to:

1. Identify a stereotype associated with that interest or skill.
2. Determine the value of the interest or skill, either to society, for personal enrichment, as a possible job skill, etc...
3. Create a superhero who possesses this interest or skill as a superpower. Write a five-page story in which the hero assumes an alter ego (his false self, e.g. Clark Kent) living under the stereotype to hide his or her true identity. The story must include at least one scene where the superhero uses the special superpower for good.
4. Share the stories in class so each student may see his or her own interest or skill portrayed in a positive way. Encourage class discussion focused on why someone might feel the need to give up or conceal these interests or skills.