

Identity Politics Video Project

The purpose of this assignment is two-fold. First, it is designed to engage each student in thinking critically about the identity theories introduced in this class, specifically as they apply to each student's own life. Thus, the project should help students understand identity theories and identity politics through the application of these ideas to the students themselves. The second purpose of this project is to engage students' creativity through the medium of visual storytelling. Students will learn how to use iMovie or Movie Maker, how to do voiceovers, and how to storyboard. Ultimately, students will gain an appreciation of the power of visual storytelling to understand themselves and others, as well as for the purpose of influence and argumentation.

The project will be split into various steps over the course of the semester. Students will be put in groups of two and work with the same partner all semester. The partners are expected to discuss, process, and bounce ideas off of one another. These interim video assignments will be graded based on timely completion. Students must come to class prepared to discuss each of the interim assignments with their partner on the day each of the assignments are due.

There is no "right" or "wrong" way to complete each of these individual assignments. Some of you may find it helpful to write/journal. Others may find it most helpful to visualize it through mind maps, schemas or pictures. The most important thing is not the method of articulation but the depth of thought and quality of reflection on the questions, which will ultimately be reflected in your final digital story.

Assignment #1: Complete by January 21, upload to DocSharing before class

Think about all of your different identities and write them down. You may decide simply to make a list of your identities, or create an identity construct map. There are lots of ways to visualize/display your identities. Do it in whatever way makes most sense to you or best helps you understand/comprehend your various identities. The next step is to think about the identities that mean the most to you. Which ones are cross-contextually salient and which are situationally salient? You can depict this using larger font or bubbles for those that are most important, or simply by putting numbers/rank ordering them. Some of your identities include, but are not limited to:

- Race, ethnicity, gender, nationality, state of origin, religion/denomination, SES category (low income, middle income, mid-upper income, upper income), family role (sister/brother, son/daughter), hobbies, age, political party, student groups, etc.

Assignment #2: Complete by January 28, upload to DocSharing before class

Look at your identity list/map/construct and determine which of your identities are social identities and which are not. In order to do this, you need to be clear about your definition of a social identity. Set forth a clear definition of what you mean by "social identity."

Among the social identities you have, determine who is the ingroup and who is the outgroup.

Assignment #3: Complete by February 4, upload to DocSharing before class

Of all of the identities you possess:

- think about/determine which ones may potentially be “complex” as defined by social identity complexity theory. What identities potentially conflict with others identities you possess? How have you/can you reconcile this?
- think about/determine how you obtain optimal distinctiveness
- What are your collective identities

Assignment #4: Complete by March 6, upload to DocSharing before class

Go back to your personal and social identities, and the rank ordering of them. Now think about those identities and reflect on how they inform your own politics, including your party id, strength of party id, ideology, and your stances on various policy issues (economic policy, social policy, foreign policy, etc.). The point here is to gain a deeper understanding of *why* you possess the politics that you do and how it reflects your identity.

Assignment #5: Complete by March 20, upload to DocSharing before class

What are your political ingroups and outgroups? How do you feel about your political ingroups and outgroups? Do you have any identities that create “political identity complexity” for you? Are there any ways that you seek “political optimal distinctiveness”?

Assignment #6: April 15, upload to DocSharing before class

In what ways do you use selective perception or perceptual bias to make your identity politics stronger? In what ways have you sought to minimize identity politics in your life either through cross-categorization, contact theory, cross-cutting social networks, or discourse/deliberation?

All videos uploaded to private class YouTube Channel by April 22!

Instructions for Developing/Submitting the Video

For your grade, you will submit:

- each of the interim assignments (via DocSharing on specific due dates): 5%
 - storyboard (via Dropbox on April 22): 2.5%
 - script (via Dropbox on April 22): 2.5%
 - finished project (upload to YouTube on April 22): 15%
1. The video should be between 3-5 minutes in length.
 2. Think about the *purpose* of your story. Do you want to make a point about identity politics or a specific theory of identity? Do you want to inform about yourself? Do you want to provoke a response? Determine what you want your purpose to be!
 3. Start to collect images, video or audio/music clips, etc. that might help you make your story more compelling. Pictures of yourself with your family as a baby? On vacation? With friends in cross-cutting networks? Of your house/neighborhood? Think about pictures or video that might help capture your identities, both personal and social, and then how they impact your politics. Start to save these things in one place/folder on your computer (but back it all up).
 4. Write your script. As you write your script, be thinking about what the simultaneous image will be on the screen. You can use voiceover to read the script, you can intersperse your voiceover with other video/audio, or you can have the text tell the story.
 5. Modify the number of images and/or order in the form of a storyboard. Determine what images you want to accompany your script. Words? Images? Graphs? Pictures? Maps? Plan it out in a storyboard format.
 6. Begin to record your project using either iMovie or Movie Maker
 7. Troubleshooting Suggestions/Help
 - Don't wait until the last minute.
 - You can most likely solve your problem on your own using a variety of tools:
 - Google our problem
 - Search "How To's" on YouTube
 - Read the instructions of the software you're using—they all have a "Help" section or a "How To"
 - Go to the open hours for the New Media Writing Studio for help
 - Ask a classmate or friend
 - If you ask me, make sure that you have tried the previous steps first as it will be the first place I direct you.

8. For digital storytelling ideas and information, see this site:
<http://digitalstorytelling.coe.uh.edu>