

Div Lit Week 9 - Self-Reflexive Process 2: Where am I in all of this?

An important dimension of diversity literacy is the ability to be self-reflexive not only about our positioning, but our investment in these positioning. These investments are often reflected in our “opinions” about certain issues like affirmative action, gay marriage etc. We do this exercise at the end of the week on whiteness, which (in our context) usually generates the most heated conversations. We do it so that students can reflect on how their “opinions” and experience of the subject material is, in part, a function of their positioning, their identities and their investments in both.

- **Objectives of class:**

- Illustrate and explores how disagreements represent contestation over meaning i.e. constructions
- Illustrate and explore how emotions are indications of our investment in these meanings (i.e. constructions)
- Develop students’ capacity to notice how they are constructing x or y
- Develop students’ capacity to discern what’s at stake for them in these constructions

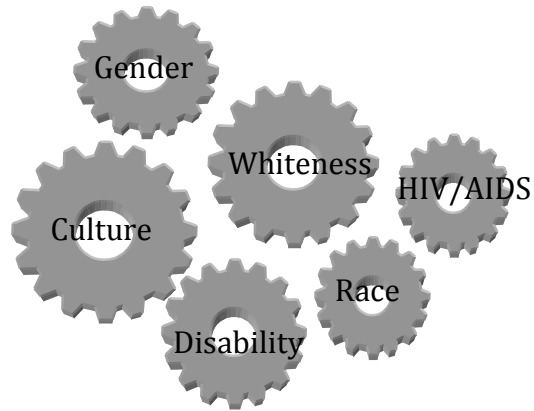
- **Material:**

- Handout - Self-reflexive Exercise (see below)

- **Method:**

- EXPLAIN: “We’ve been having some pretty hectic conversations the past few weeks, so I’d like to use this opportunity to reflect on them a bit. I’m going to give you a hand out, please complete the first page. You will have 10-15 minutes.”
- HANDOUT Self –reflexive exercise.
- FEEDBACK once everyone is completed, ask some members of the class to share what they wrote.
- EXPLAIN “Ok now we’re going to do the second part. Please complete the second page. You will have 10-15 minutes.”
- FEEDBACK once everyone is completed, ask some members of the class to share what they wrote.
- DEBRIEF Ask students why they think they did this exercise. Get their input. Explain the logic of the exercise.

Diversity Literacy - Where am I?



Above are the topics we have covered in the last few weeks. Rank from 1-6 the topics you found **liked the most (1)** to the topics you **liked the least (6)**. **Now answer the following questions:**

Which two topics did you like the most? Why is this?

Which two topics did you like the least? Why is this?

For which topics did you agree with most of the material presented? Why is this?

For which topics did you disagree with most of the material presented? Why is this?

Now write down one of the topic that **you disagreed with the most:** _____

Now ask yourself:

How do I feel when we talk about this topic in class?

Why do I feel this way about this topic and not others?

What is being challenged for me when we talk about this topic?

How am I being challenged when we talk about this topic?

How am I invested in *not* talking about this topic?

Now think about why did we do this exercise?

So why *did* we do this exercise? The method behind the madness.

Disagreements represent contestation over meaning i.e. constructions

Emotions are indications of our investment in these meanings (i.e. constructions)

Being conscious involves the capacity to:

- a. Notice** how am I constructing x or y and
- b. Discern** what's at stake for me in these constructions

Consciousness is the ability to recognise meaning making process in *ourselves*.

Conscientisation: “Joins the **psychological dimension of personal consciousness with its social and political dimension** and makes manifest the historical dialectic between knowing and doing, between individual growth and community organization, between personal liberation and social transformation” (Martín-Baró, 1996, p. 18).

“It is **not restricted to cognitive aspects for it also mobilizes emotion** in order to attain awareness about the circumstances influencing one's living conditions” (Montero, 2009, p. 74).

Consciousness: “not simply the private, subjective knowledge and feelings of individuals”; “**represents the confines within which each person encounters the reflexive impact of his or her being and actions in society**, where people take on and work out a knowledge about the self and about reality that permits them to be somebody, to have personal and social identity. **Consciousness is the knowing or not knowing of self through the world and through others.**” (Martín-Baró, 1996, p. 38).