



CLASSROOM VIDEO • VIEWING GUIDE

# TEACHING STRATEGY: IDENTITY CHARTS

## Overview

In this classroom video, English language arts teacher Jackie Rubino uses the teaching strategy of creating identity charts during the first week of the school year as her students prepare to write their college essays. Identity charts are a graphic tool that can help students consider the many factors that shape who we are as individuals and as communities. Identity charts can be

used to deepen students' understanding of themselves, groups, nations, and historical and literary figures. Sharing their own identity charts with peers can help students build relationships and break down stereotypes. In this way, identity charts can be used as an effective classroom community-building tool.

## Questions to Consider

1. At **0:42**, Ms. Rubino notes, “So now [students are] going to take all of those skills they learned in the last class and apply them to themselves, and really start thinking about who they are and the labels they are given and the categories they would put themselves in.” Why is this an important distinction for students to consider?
2. At **1:39**, Ms. Rubino tells her students: “This identity chart will not be hung up around the room—it’s not something I’ll share with other people, but you are going to share with your neighbors or someone near you.” Why do you think Ms. Rubino says this to her students? How does this build trust in her classroom?
3. At **4:36**, a student notes that she struggles with self-confidence issues. How does Ms. Rubino’s response to this student help to create a safe classroom environment for this young woman and for the whole class?

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## Featured

### Jackie Rubino

Teacher

12th Grade

Methuen High School

Methuen, MA

## Video Goals

- **Consider** how you might use identity charts in your own classroom.
- **Observe** how identity charts can be used to prepare students to write personal narrative essays.
- **See** identity charts being used “in action.”

## Lesson Resources

- [Teaching Strategy: Identity Charts](#)