
The Mystery portrait

KEYS WORDS

Identity, personality, preferences, stereotypes

TARGET AUDIENCES

Educators, Lifelong learners

MATERIALS NEEDED

Sheets of paper and pens for all participants

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- To analyze the mechanisms of construction of representations.
- To reflect on stereotypes and the way we classify people.

OVERVIEW

1. Each participant is asked to complete the proposed sentences. The sentences and therefore the topics can be adapted to our class and our objectives.

For example:

1. If I were an animal, I would be...
2. Then the sheets are collected and redistributed.
3. Participants must find out whose portrait it is and justify their choice.
4. Group debriefing. Reflection on how we define ourselves and how we perceive and define others. Awareness of stereotypes or preconceived ideas that we have involuntarily (implicit bias)

RESOURCES & REFERENCES

<https://red.educagri.fr/outils/le-portrait-chinois/>

Optional: discussion of the fact that in French this activity is known as 'Chinese portrait' !!

Mystery Portrait

Activity 1: complete the sentences below.

- 1- If I were an animal, I would be
- 2- If I were a sport, I would be...
- 3- If I were a drink, I would be....
- 4- If I were a historical figure, I would be....
- 5- If I were a color, I would be...
- 6- If I were a date, I would be....
- 7- If I were a writer, I would be...
- 8- If I were a sport, I would be...
- 9- If I were a dish, I would be...
- 10- If I were a city, I would be...

Activity 2: read the answers above and try to guess who they correspond. Justify your answer.

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Activity 3: Did you notice any preconceived ideas or stereotypes when you read the portraits? Write them down and discuss it.

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