

American Writers Museum
American Identities Field Trip
Student Materials

Student Name: _____

School or Group Name: _____

Small Group Subtheme: _____

Independent Student Reflection: Activating Prior-Knowledge:

Answer the following questions independently to activate your knowledge on identity.

What is Identity?

What influences a person's identity? Think about what could positively change a person's identity or what could challenge a person's identity.

Think about a time when your own identity has been challenged. Describe it below. Think about what was influencing you and how you reacted to the situation.

Small Group Reflection:

Working in your small groups, begin to answer the following questions specific to your subtheme assigned to you (race, religion, gender, or national origin).

What is this type of identity? (What is racial identity, religious identity, gender identity or national origin identity?)

What are some examples of how this identity has been seen in history or in present day?

How could this type of identity be influenced or challenged?

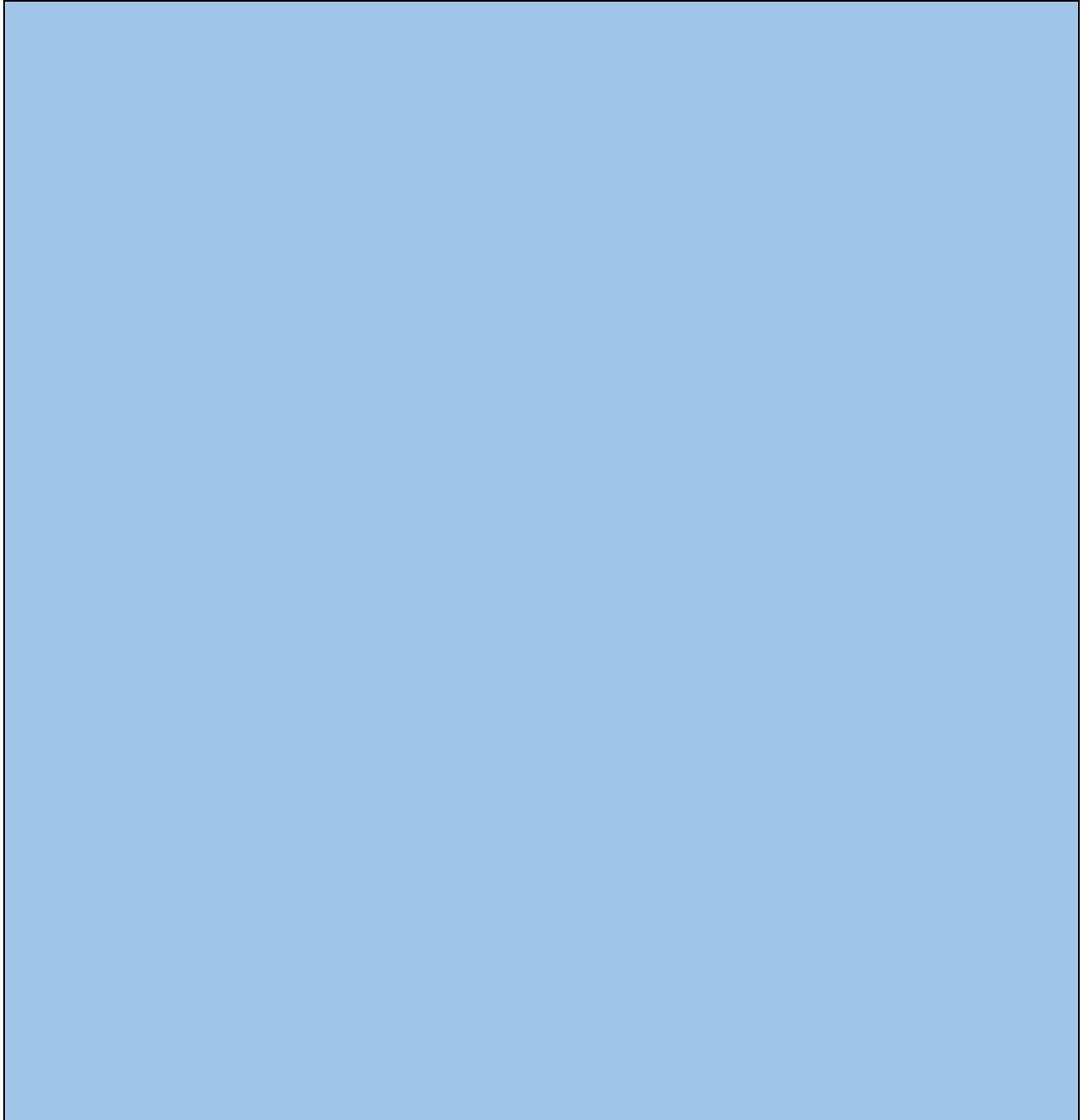
Guided Exploration of the Museum Instructions:

Today you will be guided through the museum. We encourage you to take your time and read through pieces that you find interesting: poems, biographies, etc. Feel free to engage in the kiosks or activities provided. Throughout all of this you will do two things:

1. **Personal Word Waterfall:** Great writers will brainstorm before writing and developing a list of words or phrases that have stood out to you can be one way of brainstorming. As you explore the museum, write down words or phrases that you like, find meaning or connection with, intrigue you, etc. By the end of your exploration, you will have a waterfall of words that you can use to write a story or poem.
2. **Identity Theme:** Take notes on your small group theme. Identify written pieces that show this theme (provide quotations if possible), authors who have written about this theme (explain why they chose to write about the theme), or think about a time period when the theme was influenced (explain why that specific time period was influential).

Personal Word Waterfall:

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Theme Exploration:

Small Group Subtheme and Definition:

| Authors who write and highlight this theme in their writing pieces. Explain the author, why they choose to write about this theme, and what they say about the theme. | Written pieces that focus on the theme. Provide quotations as evidence or explanations when possible. |
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Think about one of the time periods when this theme was influenced. Explain why and how this time period influenced the theme.

Story of the Day:

Today you have explored the American Writers Museum and seen many great authors and written pieces. Now it is your turn to write a story. You will receive the first line of your story, but then you will need to continue the story after the first line. If possible, you should incorporate the theme and perspective you have focused on while exploring in the museum. You can also consider modeling your style or tone from one of the authors or pieces you have seen today. Use the space below to brainstorm and then write.

This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features a series of evenly spaced, horizontal blue lines across the entire page. The lines are thin and consistent in color and thickness, providing a guide for letter height and placement. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, leaving small margins at the top and bottom. There are no vertical margin lines, and the page is completely blank except for the lines themselves.