**American Writers Museum**

***American Identities***

**Student Materials**

**Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Independent Student Reflection: Activating Prior-Knowledge:**

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

| **What is Identity?** |
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| **What influences a person’s identity? Think about what could positively change a person’s identity or what could challenge a person’s identity.** |
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| **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.** |
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**Independent Student Reflection:**

As you explore the *Pauli Murray Virtual Exhibit*, answer the following questions specific to the information you discover throughout the exhibit.

| **What is Gender Identity?**  |
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| **What are some examples of how gender identity and expression has been seen in history or in the present day?** |
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| **How could this type of identity be influenced or challenged?** |
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**Exploring the *Pauli Murray* Virtual Exhibit Instructions:**

Today you will explore the *Pauli Murray* virtual exhibit. It is encouraged that you take your time and read through pieces that you find interesting: poems, biographies, quotes, etc. Feel free to engage with the content provided. Throughout all of this you will do the following:

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 virtual exhibit, 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.