Your Name: Kristin Ferguson

Teaching Tolerance Activity

**Name of the Article:** Identity Self-Portraits

**Population:** K-2 Students

**Objective:** Identity self-portraits give students an opportunity for self-understanding by encouraging them to reflect on different facets of their identities

**Age/Grade Level:** K-2

**Procedure:** In schools today the focus is mainly on academics, but it is also important for students learn real life qualities that they can build on and take with them even outside of the classroom. Most of the time when teachers give these beyond academic type lessons, they are directed toward how you treat others: being kind, courteous, and respectful. I think that before you learn how to do these things you need to first look at your self identity. What makes you who you are? This activity is good for students to see how they view themselves and then also to see other’s self portraits, showing them that they are really not as different compared their classmates as they thought.

In this activity students will be instructed to draw a self portrait and in the background put things that have helped shape things into how they are today. They can do this with whatever medium they choose collages, paint, watercolors, crayons, or markers. It can also be made however the students want, no two pictures should look alike. They should include symbols in the background representing their identity, diversity, anti-bias, social justice, values or beliefs. An example the teaching tolerance lesson plan gave was “a student whose family is from Puerto Rico might include a Puerto Rican flag in her portrait, or a student who values peace and nonviolence could add a peace sign in his portrait background.” It is really just a time for the students to reflect on their self identity and think of who they are as a person. When they are all done, the students can go around and compare their portraits, picking out similarities and differences. This would be beneficial and good for an inclusion classroom; allowing the kids that might feel like they don’t fit in or that feel different see that everyone is different and even within those differences people have similarities

**Possible Adaptations:** This might be a little bit more affective for students that are in higher grade levels. It would work for K-2, but students in higher grades could really dig deep into their thoughts and ideas of who they are and how they relate to others.

**Reflection:** Overall, I think this teaching tolerance activity is really interesting. It is a fun activity that will allow students to think about their self identity and also be able to see how others view themselves. It will be a really good way to help with inclusion

**Reference**

https://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources/student-tasks/do-something/identity-selfportraits