

Mapping Your Artistic Influence Activity

The purpose of this activity is for an educator to identify and reflect on their artistic influences, in order to be mindful about their identity and background and how those compare with their students’.

Part 1: Mapping Your Artistic Influences

Select an activity option:

- Free-write/narrative
- Collage
- Mind map
- Music playlist
- List of favorite books/shows/characters
- Movement

Create a reflection based on three different times in your life: Childhood, adolescence, and adulthood. Who and what have influenced you artistically? Recognize influences from your school experience and experiences outside of school.

Part 2: Reflection

Examine your creative work and consider:

- How does this reflect different aspects of your identity? Are there any aspects of your identity that are not reflected in your work?
- What does your map reveal about your cultural context?
- How do your artistic influences connect with your students?
- In what ways are you an artistic influence upon your students?
- In what ways are your students an artistic influence upon you?
- How do your artistic influences affect your curriculum?
- How do your artistic influences affect how you approach instruction?
- What is missing? What gaps do you notice?