

Power Flower

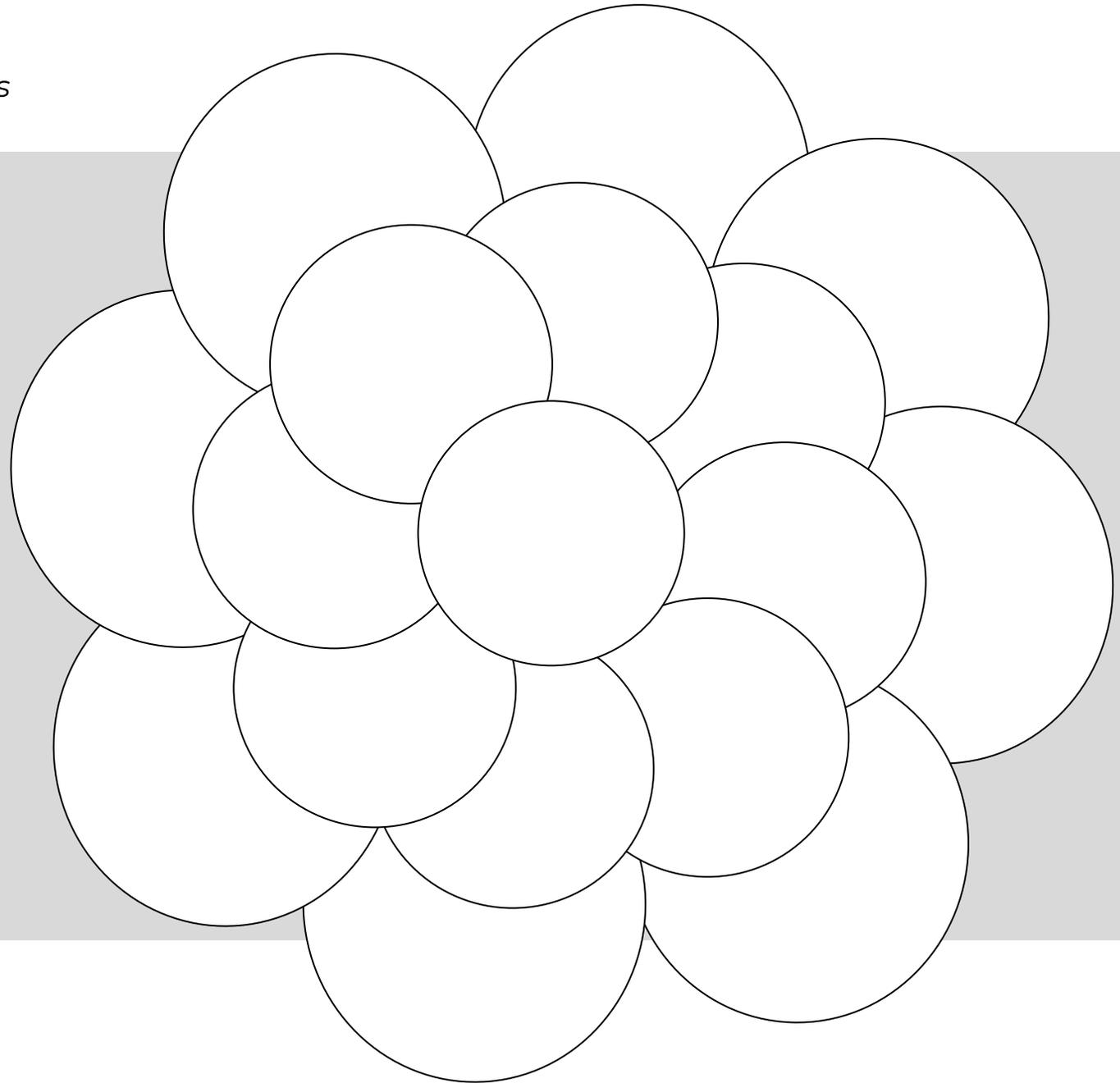
Center Petal = Your Name

Inner Ring = Your identities

Outer Ring = Dominant identities

“Big 8” Identities

- Race
- Ethnicity
- Gender Identity
- Sexual Orientation
- Ability
- Religion
- Nationality
- Socioeconomic Status



POWER FLOWER

The Power Flower is a visual representation of our social identities and our proximity to the social identities that hold power and privilege in our society.

INTENTIONS:

- Define our belonging to various social identity groups
- Define positions of privilege and disadvantage within each social identity group
- Discover how close or distant we are to the dominant identities of our current society
- Discuss the implications of social identity on day-to-day experiences

KEY CONCEPTS:

- “Big 8” Social Identities
- Dominant identities, non-dominant identities
- Privilege and disadvantage

MATERIALS:

Printed Power Flower template or plain paper to draw on, colored pencils

DIRECTIONS:

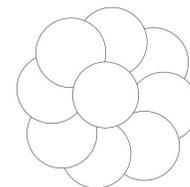
Step 1: Center

Draw one circle. This is the center petal - you!



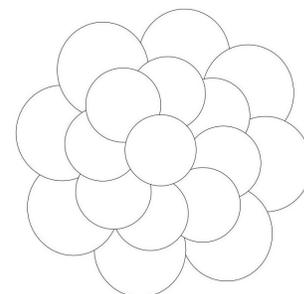
Step 2: Inner Ring

Draw a ring of 8 petals around the center circle. This is your inner ring. In each petal, write how you identify with each of the “Big 8” social identities. (e.g. “white” in the race petal, or “queer” in the sexual orientation petal).



Step 3: Outer Ring

Draw 8 more petals to create an outer ring. In each of these petals, write what you consider to be the dominant group for each social identity. For example, for sexual orientation, one might write “straight.” If you are unsure of what the dominant group is, talk to those around you.



Step 4: Your Flower

Choose 1 color that is associated with dominant identity groups and 1 other color. Color in the petals of dominant identities - in both the inner and outer ring - with your first color. Color in the petals of non-dominant identities with the other color.

Sample Debrief Questions

1. What are your reactions to drawing the power flower?
2. Which social identities are you more or less aware of? Are these dominant or non-dominant identities?
3. What questions about privilege and disadvantage are raised for you after this activity?
4. How will reflecting on your social identities help you in understanding others?

Possible Extension

Draw a third ring of petals that represents the host country society. How are the power dynamics similar to or different from those in the US context? What else do we need to know about the host culture to answer these questions?