



# Our Differences Are Our Strengths

## Intersectionality Lesson

*[Image description: A female student's profile is shown in red with a light blue dress and sneakers seated in a dark blue wheelchair. She has her face turned to the right and has a long braid to her left. She is in front of an abstract triangular orange shape and a light green circle. The orange Office of the Education Ombuds logo is to the right on this slide.]*



“October is Disability History Month in the state of Washington. Today we are going to learn about intersectionality and how disability impacts all kinds of people. This lesson is called ‘Our Differences Are Our Strengths’ because we are going to focus on the ways that being different makes people who they are, and why we should be proud of our differences. First, I’m going to introduce our vocabulary word ‘intersectionality’ with a video.”



Video link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=24&v=w6dnj2lyYjE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=24&v=w6dnj2lyYjE)

Play video (3:03)

Differentiation: Video has closed captioning as well as visual representations of the voice over.

Video link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=24&v=w6dnj2lyYjE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=24&v=w6dnj2lyYjE)

# **Intersectionality**

“After watching the video, does anyone have a definition of intersectionality they want to share?” If no student answers, move to next slide with definition.

# **Intersectionality:**

Multiple aspects of our identities that impact who we are and the way that we are seen and treated by others.

Intersectionality is also the way that people can experience different, overlapping oppressions that affect them.

“Here is one definition of intersectionality.” Read from slide 4. “What are ways that your identity is intersectional?”

# **Social Identity:**

How we are defined by social group.  
Some examples include race, religion,  
gender, sexual orientation, disability, and  
age. Intersectionality is how our different  
social identities impact our lives.

“Here is one definition of social identity.” Read from slide 5. “What are some social identities that you have?”

# Intersectionality Gallery Walk



[Image description: Large white poster papers cover a classroom wall. On each paper is a big picture. Around the pictures are yellow post-its with writing. A student wearing a black t-shirt writes in front of the poster.]

“Today we are going to explore intersectionality and how it relates to people with disabilities. We are going to do a gallery walk. I have taped up different images of people and ideas about intersectionality and disability around the room. First, I am going to go over the rules of a gallery walk. Then, I am going to model how participating in a gallery walk will look. Then, it will be your turn.”

## How To Participate in a Gallery Walk:

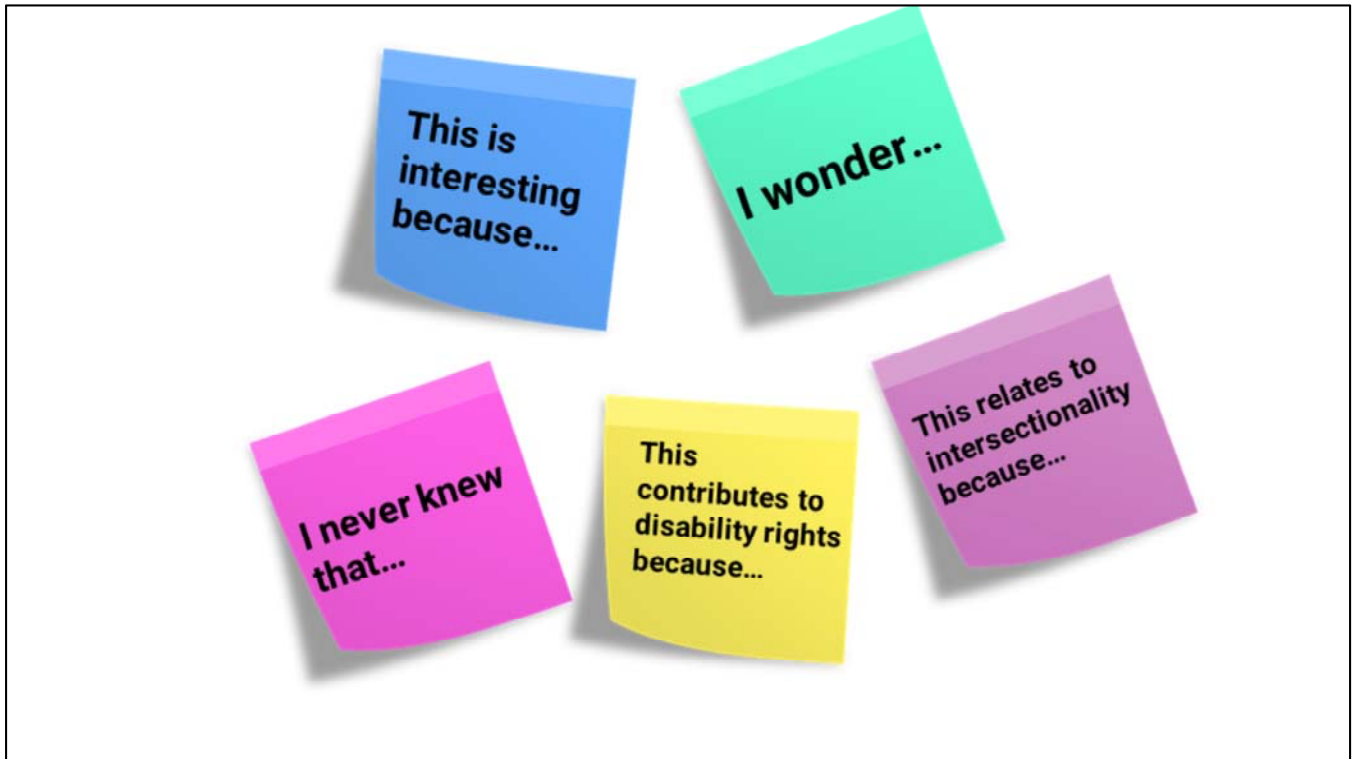
1. Walk around and read at least three of the posters around the room.
2. Write one post-it for each poster (use sentence starters to guide your comments).
3. Stick your post-it next to the poster.

## Gallery Walk Rules:

1. This is a silent activity.
2. Read the poster fully and other people's comments before writing your comment. Do not repeat what someone else wrote.
3. Be respectful of people's space. There may be more than one person reading posters at a time.

Read slide. "These are the expectations of the gallery walk."

Differentiation: Students can work individually, or be divided into groups with different roles (e.g. recorder, timekeeper) or different tasks (e.g. each student is responsible for answering one question).



"I am going to show you an example of how to participate in the gallery walk. The room is divided into four categories: Figures in Black Disability History, Quotes on Black Disability History, Intersectional Facts, and Present Day Intersectional Disability Figures." Model writing a post-it note response using the sentence stem.

"Now it's your turn to go on the intersectionality gallery walk." Keep sentence stems on Slide 8 projected.



## **Discussion:**

- What is something that you noticed?
- What is something that surprised you?
- What is something new that you learned?
- How might someone's intersectional identity impact their perspective?
- Why is it important to consider intersectionality?

### Extension option

- Discuss the questions as a class, in small groups, or pair share
- Answer questions students may have about words referencing specific disabilities or identities

# References

- Koch, Alexandra. "Free Image on Pixabay - Post It, Memos, Notes, Info." Family Love Rainbow · Free Vector Graphic on Pixabay, [pixabay.com/en/post-it-memos-notes-info-1975179/](https://pixabay.com/en/post-it-memos-notes-info-1975179/).
- Runs With Scissors. "Hurricane Katrina Gallery Walk." Flickr, Yahoo!, 24 Oct. 2005, [www.flickr.com/photos/kenstein/55391651](https://www.flickr.com/photos/kenstein/55391651).
- Teaching Tolerance. "Intersectionality 101." YouTube, YouTube, 18 May 2016, [www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6dnj2lyYjE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w6dnj2lyYjE).