

CULTURAL CHEST ACTIVITY (DEVELOPED BY TANYA O. WILLIAMS)

Each of you will be creating a “Cultural Chest” which will allow you to share personal information with the group about who you are and how you believe others see you.

Select three objects that are significant to you because they describe an aspect of yourself in connection to your membership in any of the following social groups: Gender, Race, Ethnicity, Sexual Orientation, and/or Social Economic Class. These objects might be a photograph, piece of art, book, music or any artifact that describes an aspect of your personal and family history or social identity that is significant to you. The idea about this assignment is to be creative and share some of yourself with the class. Please try to think deeply about what you bring and why it represents the assignment above. Refrain from bringing shallow-minded representations of your identities (e.g., a picture of a girlfriend or boyfriend to show that you are heterosexual; a dollar bill to show that you are wealthy. I want you to think deeper about your identities and why they contribute to who you are or who you have been socialized to be.

- Place the three objects inside a small box or bag (shoe box, paper bag, etc.)
- Decorate the outside the box or bag with images (pictures, your own drawings, and words or phrases) that describe how you think other people see you based on your visible identities
- Come prepared to share what you have placed inside and outside your chest with the group.