

M2: Reflection on Peers' Identity Presentations

Reflection on Ramona Madrigal's 'Who Am I?' Presentation

Ramona's reflection on her identity encapsulates her personality perfectly. It beautifully reflects her caring nature, strength, patience, commitment, focus, and genuine love for her family and students. These traits are evident in everything she does and her involvement with her family, children, and students.

I could relate a lot to her ideals and her personality. Her philosophy (which her mother imparted to her) is a valuable asset for life, and we all need it as teachers, parents, and community members!

Ramona's marriage is a bond made of friendship and love. Her family values and ideals of understanding and valuing individual differences and backgrounds reveal her caring and compassionate nature. Our values are shaped by our ethnic background, our beliefs, our diverse experiences, the places we live, the people we meet, and those who inspire us to be so much more, shape us in genuinely magical ways.

Her personal experiences with her son demonstrate her love, commitment, focus, patience, and hard work. This crucial learning has influenced her work as a teacher, as our experiences are truly what shape us. As she has iterated, we do share a vital responsibility in how we shape the lives of not only our children but the students whom we teach. Moreover, in this equation, meaningful communication, and effective culturally responsive collaboration, is extremely vital as we strive to make a positive difference in our children's social, emotional, and academic learning and outcomes.

Reflection on Neil Trotter's 'Who Am I?' Presentation

From Neil's identity presentation, I learned much about his rich indigenous cultural heritage. It was fascinating to learn about the collaborative culture of Métis, which adopted parts of their Indigenous and French cultures and developed a common language.

Having a positive cultural identity is an essential shaper of one's personality. Shared values and beliefs influence the way we learn, live, interact, and collaborate with the people around us. A positive and robust cultural identity can give an individual a sense of belonging, and respect for other cultural values and beliefs can promote resilience, humility & self-worth. As Neil has highlighted, his cultural heritage has contributed to the person he is today, a courageous, confident, and yet humble person. His experiences throughout his life have shaped his educational pedagogy and his vast experience in teaching and administration. His collaborative culture has shaped his collaborative skills with his community, staff, and students. As teachers, it is imperative to understand not only the complexity of culture's influence on identity but also individual differences.

My ethnic and cultural background has significantly influenced my beliefs and values, which are crucial to my identity. We absorb a sense of our heritage throughout our lives as we observe our family and experience the things that make our family unique.

Reflection on Amanda Shaver's 'Who Am I?' Presentation

Amanda is a loving mother of two beautiful children. The strength of her personality shines through everything she does. Being a single mother, working as a special needs teacher, and pursuing a Master's Degree at the University of Kansas is proof enough!

She is a special education self-contained teacher who helps students with the most significant cognitive and physical disabilities. Her passion for teaching, standing up, and being a voice for people who need it demonstrates not only her compassionate and caring nature but also reflects her strength, commitment, and leadership qualities. Her drive to get a Master's further illustrates her dedication to her profession and her innate desire to help children to the best of her ability.

She is an ardent reader. She encourages her students to try new things and motivates them to boost their imagination, be creative, and think out of the box. Her adventurous spirit, ignited by her passion for reading, enables her to extend this skill while teaching.

She demonstrates a strong community spirit and believes in the magic of collaboration and support. Her collaborative community spirit creates an environment where there is a willingness to help, support and motivate each other in times of need.

She also extends this faith in collaboration to her work environment and practices effective teamwork and meaningful communication with her students and school community. Powerful partnership driven by clear and meaningful communication promotes innovation, creativity, and critical inquiry.

Amanda's strong faith, family, and well-rooted Texan community spirit are her backbone. I do not doubt that her passion, coupled with the strength of her traits, will steer her toward success and everything she wants in life.