

## Day One Craft- Identity Masks

Summary: We are making two-sided masks as a way of exploring our identities and the ways we can build connections with others. There are parts of us that everyone can see, and there are parts of us that require us to learn about and empathize with each other to understand.

Materials:

Paper Plate

Scissors

Pencils and/or pens for drawing

Paints, crayons or markers for adding color

Optional: a hole punch and elastic, string or pipe cleaners; or a popsicle stick, tape, and craft knife (with adult supervision only) and cutting mat or cardboard

Instructions:

1. Turn your plate upside down and draw the holes for the eyes. You can figure out where to place the holes by holding the plate in front of your face and marking where your eyes are.
2. Next, cut out the eyes with your craft knife on a cutting mat or piece of cardboard. You can also carefully use a pair of scissors. Younger students should ask an adult for help.
3. Now, it's time to draw your face. You might start with your nose, hair, and mouth. But what else makes your face special and yours? You can choose the emotion or expression on your mask. Add the other details that make your face yours—maybe you have freckles, or a scar, glasses or a hat or headband.
4. Once you're happy with your drawing it's time to paint or color it in. One of the sample masks shows mixed watercolor paints to match a dark brown skin color, then layered more paint on top for rosy cheeks. On another sample, crayons and markers were used—then construction paper and glue to make a bow! Choose whatever materials you'd like to use to be creative.
5. When we're done with adding color, and any paint is dry again, you can use scissors to cut around the outside of the mask, if needed, or cut the nose flap on the bottom and sides. You can also embellish your mask with any added details.
6. Now, flip over your mask to add in the parts of your identity that people do not see. Start by dividing your plate into three areas: **needs, talents, loves**. In each area, include words and drawings of things that fit in that category. These are things that people may not see when they look at you, but are still a part of your identity.
7. Optional: Finally, punch a hole on either side of the mask and thread through some elastic, string, or even pipe cleaner. Or, you can glue or tape on a popsicle stick at the bottom of the mask to make a handheld mask instead of a wearable one.

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Questions to Discuss or Think About:

1. Our Identity Masks have two sides, but when someone is looking at you, they can only see one side. Could you tell what someone else has on the back of their mask just by looking at the front? And, to flip the question around, if you saw the back of someone's mask, would you know how the front looked?
2. How do we learn about the information on the back side of other people's masks? If you had a **talent** in common with someone else, how would you find out?
3. We wrote three categories on the insides of our masks: **needs, talents, loves**. Is there overlap in what you have on the inside of your mask and what others have? What **needs** or **loves** do you think most people have?

Examples:

