

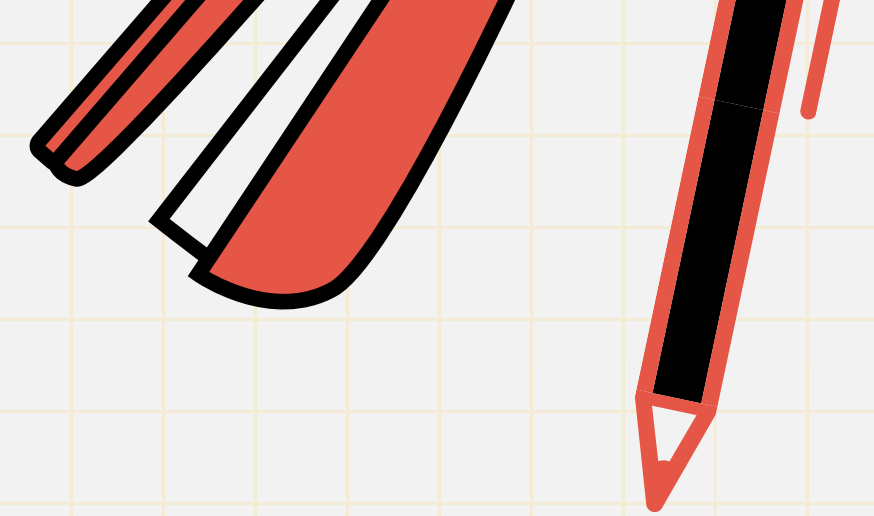
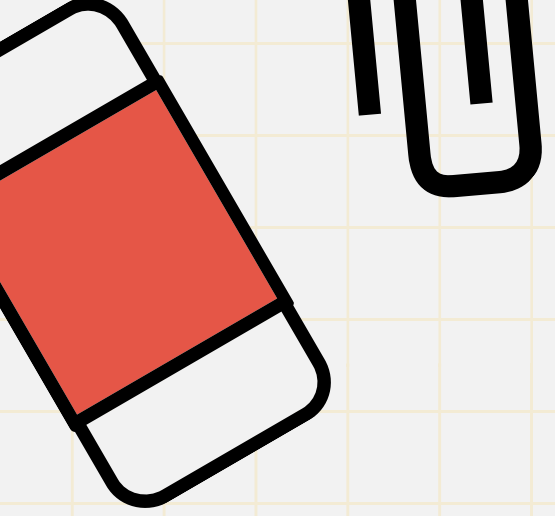


LETTERS TO THE WORLD

AMPLIFYING STUDENT VOICES



an initiative of
The Vidya
Project



If you want to
change the world,
pick up your pen & **write.**

MARTIN LUTHER

Creating the world of the future begins with *amplifying your voice.*

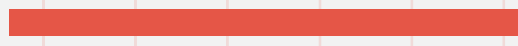
We often hear about academic and community challenges from parents,
school administrators, and educators.

The world needs to hear **your perspective.**

Your first-hand stories *matter.* Your shared experiences have the
power to change how your school might operate and how local community
or education policies in the future are developed.

Please share your Letter to the World.

This letter is about you. Think of this as your "journal to the universe."
Share your experiences in your school, your community, and your world.

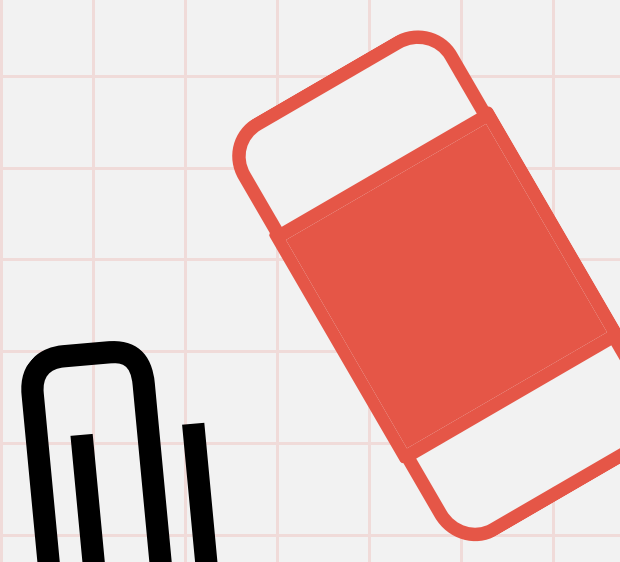
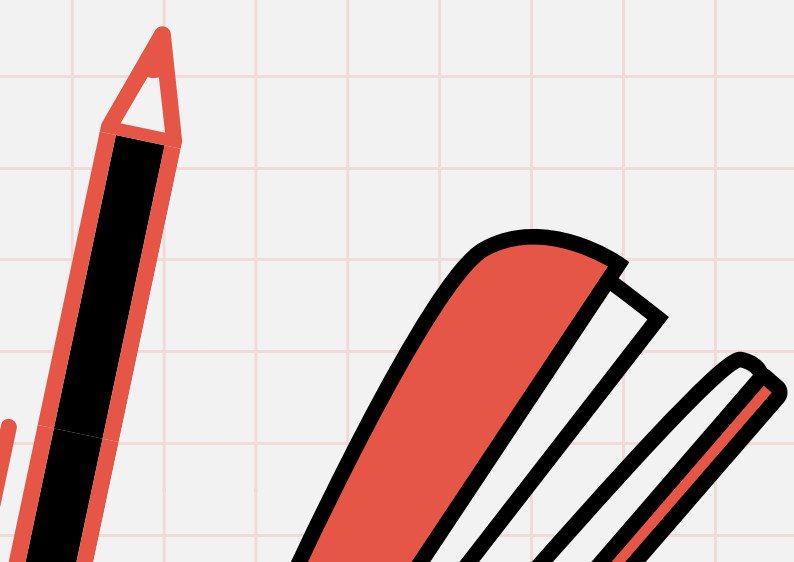


Selected submissions will be published via national or local
media partners.

All student voices will be shared on our new digital platform:
www.ourletterstotheworld.org

SHARE YOUR STORY

ourletterstotheworld.org
thevidyaprojectorg@gmail.com



Prompts

Letters to the World can be submitted in any format of expression (i.e. letter, poem, live reading, video, etc). Kindly select one of the below prompts to help guide your work.

EDUCATION

- What kind of education system do you think is best?
- When has a teacher inspired you?
- If you could change one thing about your school, what would it be? Why?

FAMILY

- What family traditions do you want to carry on as you get older?
- What events have brought you and your family closer together?
- What have you and your family accomplished together?
- What role has music played in your culture and life?

HUMAN RIGHTS

- What does treating people fairly and humanely look like to you?
- Which social justice issues are important to you?
- What does equality mean to you?
- What is the greatest challenge your generation faces? Why?

PERSONAL

- How have you dealt with a challenge you faced? What was the outcome?
- What advice would you give your younger self?
- What personal achievements make you proud?
- What's the best advice you've received?
- Who inspires you?

COMMUNITY

- What is special about your hometown?
- How much does your neighborhood define who you are?
- What is one thing you would like to do to improve your local community?
- How would you accomplish this goal?



submission criteria

HOW TO SHARE YOUR LETTER TO THE WORLD

Letters can take any form that best represents your voice (poetry, essay, freestyle, video, or illustration). Written content must be 500 words or less & video content must be no longer than 5 minutes.

You can answer any one or more of the suggested prompts or choose your own related topic

Record a 30 second selfie video introducing yourself, where you are from, age and complete the sentence: my voice matters because _____ (if video not feasible, photo is accepted)


Submit your files via thevidyaprojectorg@gmail.com OR www.ourletterstotheworld.org/submit

Submissions will be reviewed by local thought leaders and shared via our website 3-4 days following receipt*

Thank You

your voice matters

*submissions will **only** be shared on public platforms with written student consent





FACILITATOR GUIDE

Letters to the world

This initiative is designed to be free-spirited, full of creativity, and thought-provoking.

We have included the following *optional* activities to help guide the brainstorming process if the writer or facilitator prefers structure around this exercise.

It is our hope that every writer shares their "letter to the world" with **heart & soul.**



FACILITATOR GUIDE

produced by **The Vidya Project**

ACTIVITY ONE [OPTIONAL]

Materials Needed: Identity Map (attached in the following page)

PART 1:

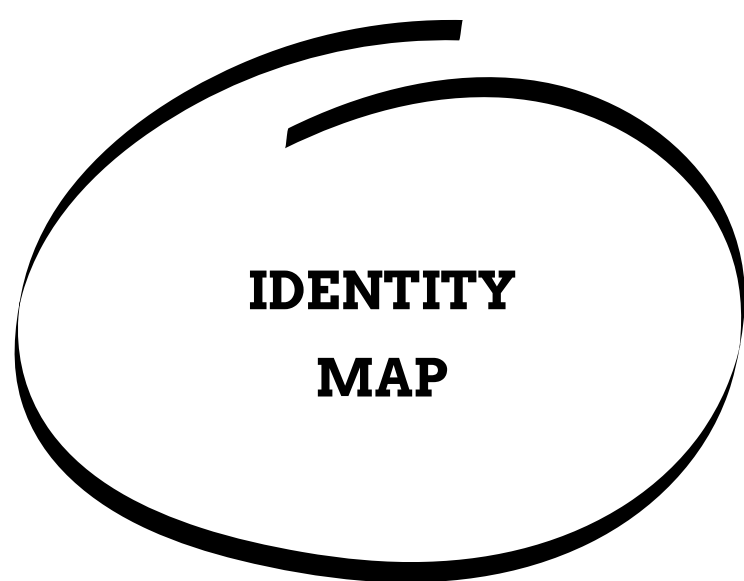
- Students will become acquainted with what it means to storytell
- Students will participate in self-reflective activities that prepare them to share their own story
- Students will learn the mechanics behind a story and apply it to their own

Introduction: The Art & History of Storytelling

- People have told stories for centuries -- they have been passed down from generation to generation. *Have you ever heard a story at home? What kind of stories have you heard or read?*
- Stories allow us to learn more about the world
- Stories can often teach and show us that very different people can share the same life experiences
- We are **ALL** storytellers and each one of us has an unique story to share with each other and the world around us

Activity #1 (30 minutes)

Today, you will be creating your own identity map -- Who are YOU? What makes you "YOU"? What do you want the world to know about yourself? You can fill it in with words, phrases, and pictures that you would use to describe yourselves. Think about your passions, politics and beliefs, dreams, ambitions, and future plans.



***Please note the **identity map worksheet** attached in the following page*

Reflection & Discussion:

How did it feel to complete this exercise? What did you include in your identity map? Why did you choose to include that? What did you notice about the identity maps of your peers? What do you share in common? What were some differences that exist?

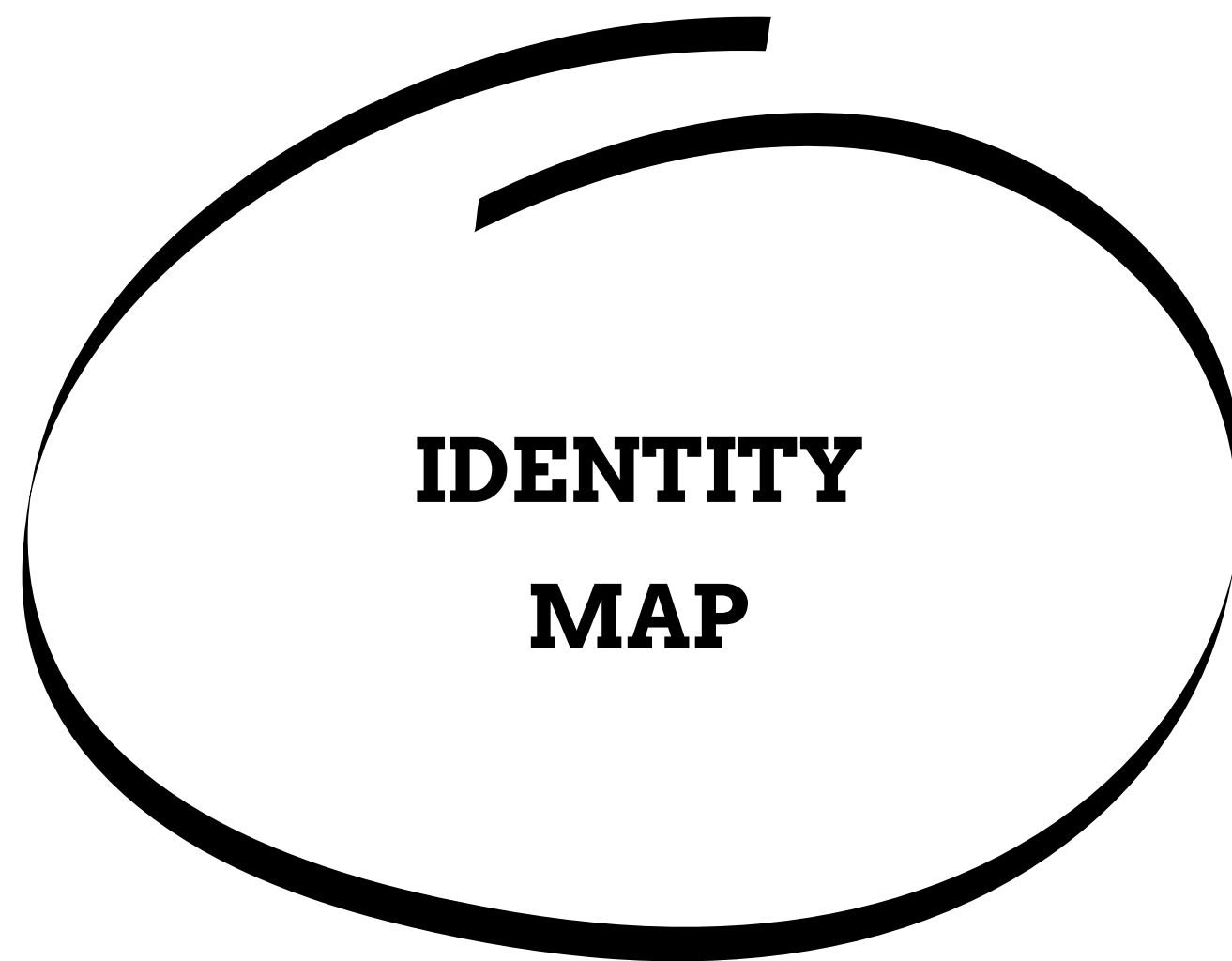


IDENTITY MAP

developing your **Letter to the World**

DIRECTIONS

Fill this identity map with phrases, words, and pictures that you would use to describe yourself. You can be as creative as possible while crafting your identity map





FACILITATOR GUIDE

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ACTIVITY TWO [OPTIONAL]

Reflection & Discussion:

You just spent time reflecting on your *personal* identities and thinking about how you would answer the question: “Who am I?” in order to be able to share more of yourself to the world around you. Now, think about your family, school, and community. These are groups and institutions that often shape you. Reflect on your relationship with each category. You may choose to use pictures and words to describe each. Please note the worksheet attached on the following page.

FAMILY	SCHOOL	COMMUNITY

Wrap Up

Think about how you will be leveraging all of the ideas you have brainstormed to write your own **letter to the world**. Review the following sample prompts & select one (or more if applicable) to help guide your letter.

- What do you wish the world knew about you/your life/your community?
- If you could do anything to change the world, what would you do or change?
- What would make you happier right now?
- What do you feel you do **not** have control over?
- In which areas do you wish you had more support, either academically or personally?
- How do you practice gratitude?
- Share an act of kindness.

Additional Resources & Sample Letters

- <https://themoth.org/education/stories> ****The Moth was started to bring together for the purpose of sharing stories. [Storytellers [students] are sharing a truth from their lives]*
- <https://storycorps.org/stories/ellaraino-and-baki-annur/>



IDENTITY MAP

developing your **Letter to the World**

DIRECTIONS

Think about your **family, school, and community**. These are groups and institutions that often shape you and your identity. Reflect on your relationship with each category. You may choose to use pictures and words to describe each.

FAMILY

SCHOOL

COMMUNITY