

# Time & Identity: A Visually Guided Discussion

## A metaphysical exploration with students

Approximate time: 30-45 min

**Objective:** Students will discuss the concepts of time/change caused by time, and reflect on their own fundamental identity markers that time does (or doesn't) change.

### **Materials needed:**

Magazines to be cut (old/new)  
Pieces of paper (one per pair of students)  
Scissors  
Glue Sticks  
Other arts and crafts supplies (whatever's available)

### **Introduction:**

The years students spend in the classroom are some of the most meaningful for their self awareness, identity development, and ripe opportunities for intellectual growth. This lesson provides a fun and tactile way for students to think about the concept of time: What is time? What is the tie between identity and time? Are you the same person as yesterday? When do you stop being you?

We begin the lesson by asking an open ended question: How did you change since the beginning of the school year, if at all? (This question can be written on the board, or asked out loud). Then, divide the students into pairs and ask them to use the magazines and art supplies provided to represent the change they underwent, individually or mutually, this year (if the class in question runs for one quarter, for example, the same questions can be asked about the quarter. Whatever makes sense in your context).

Then, **give the students 15-20 minutes to create their collages**, while walking around and checking on their progress. After the allotted time, we can go around the room and have one of the students from each pair present their collage, and explain their creation. The discussion then can be naturally divergent from the presentations, and include the following questions and wonderings:

- How does the collage you created represent who you are now, and who you were at the beginning of the year? Is there a change? Why or why not?
- Does time necessarily impact who we are? Are there some parts of us that do not change?

- Are we still the same people when we're young and old?
- When do you stop being you with the passing of time? Is there some fundamental characteristic that makes you you?
- what is the tie between identity and time? Are you the same person as yesterday? When do you stop being you?