



Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

4.2 Noting Variety

Objectives

Investigate the number of people in students' major classes, work environment, or professional organization who fall into various age, race, and gender categories.

Analyze the findings as they relate to social justice issues.

Materials needed

Pen and paper or copies of the handout

Possibly, reference materials

Time needed

Twenty to thirty minutes

Instructor directions

Have your student tally the number of people in their major classes, work environment, or professional organization who fall into various age, race, and gender categories.

Ask them to analyze their findings in light of social justice issues.



Writing for Change

RAISING AWARENESS OF DIFFERENCE, POWER, AND DISCRIMINATION

4.2 Noting Variety Handout

Directions

Tally the number of people in your major classes, work environment, or professional organization who fall into each of the following categories (not all-inclusive):

Category	Number of individuals
Latina/o	
African-American	
White	
Asian	
Native American Indian or First Nations	
Female	
Male	
Age 17-35	
Age 35-60	
Age 60-90	

Write about your findings. What do they mean? Address the following:

What are some factors that tend to attract women to the field?

What are some factors that might put them off or discourage them?

What are some factors that tend to attract African American people?

What are some factors that tend to put them off or discourage them?

What is the mix of racial and ethnic backgrounds in the group?

What are some reasons for this mix?

Which age groups are represented in this class or field?

Which ones are missing?

What are some of the advantages of the particular ethnic, racial, gender, and age composition of this group?

Identify which mechanisms contribute to the perception of difference in the major or field.