

**American Writers Museum**

*American Identities*

**Student Materials**

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Independent Student Reflection: Activating Prior-Knowledge:**

Answer the following questions independently to activate your knowledge on identity.

**What is Identity?**

**What influences a person's identity? Think about what could positively change a person's identity or what could challenge a person's identity.**

**Think about a time when your own identity has been challenged. Describe it below. Think about what was influencing you and how you reacted to the situation.**

### **Small Group Reflection:**

Working in your small groups, begin to answer the following questions specific to your subtheme assigned to you (race, religion, gender, or national origin).

**What is this type of identity? (What is racial identity, religious identity, gender identity or national origin identity?)**

**What are some examples of how this identity has been seen in history or in present day?**

**How could this type of identity be influenced or challenged?**

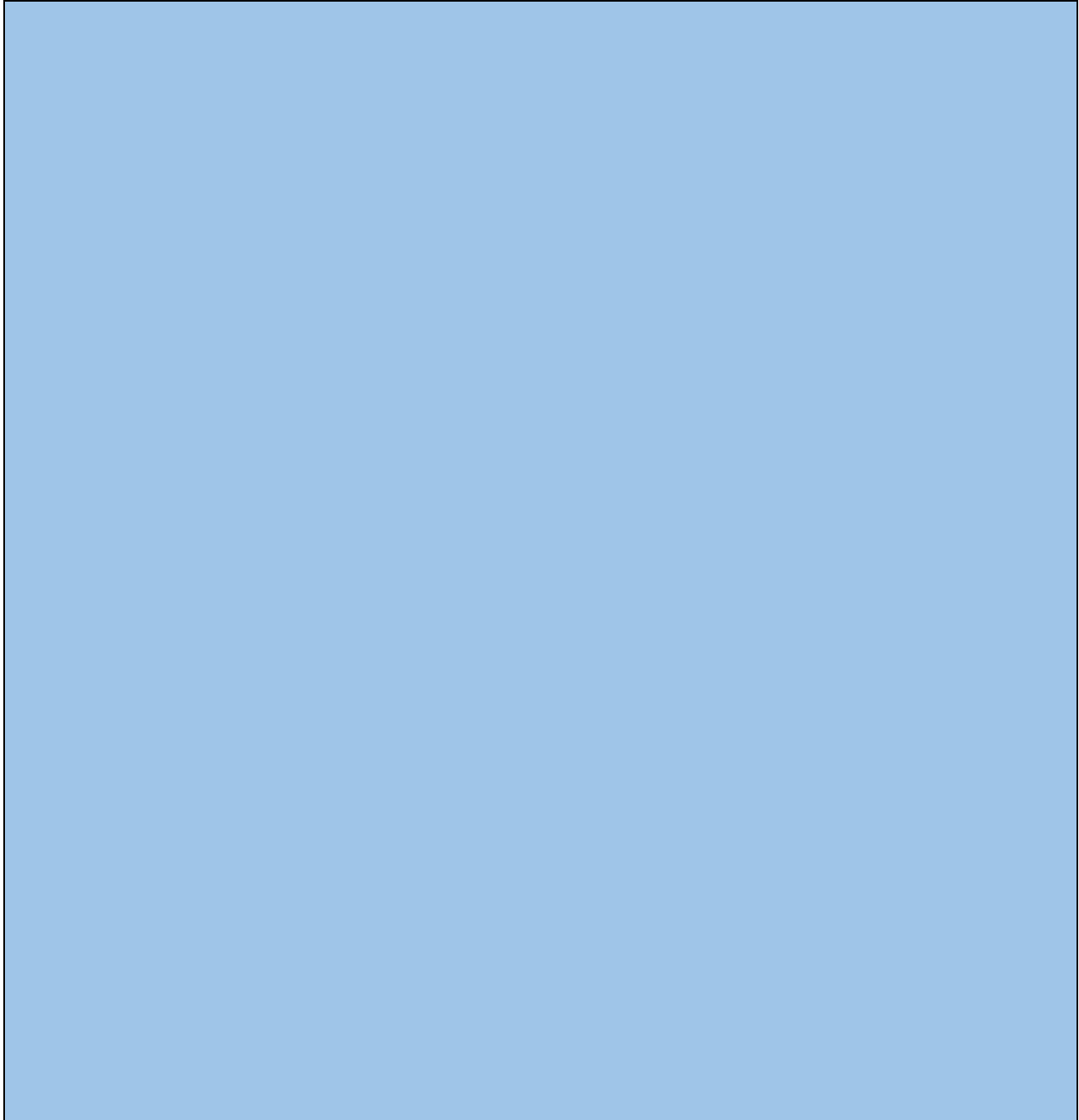
## Exploring the *American Voices* Virtual Exhibit Instructions:

Today you will explore the *American Voices* virtual exhibit. We encourage you to take your time and read through pieces that you find interesting: poems, biographies, etc. Feel free to engage with the content provided. Throughout all of this you will do two things:

1. **Personal Word Waterfall:** Great writers will brainstorm before writing and developing a list of words or phrases that have stood out to you can be one way of brainstorming. As you explore the virtual exhibit, write down words or phrases that you like, find meaning or connection with, intrigue you, etc. By the end of your exploration, you will have a waterfall of words that you can use to write a story or poem.
2. **Identity Theme:** Take notes on your small group theme. Identify written pieces that show this theme (provide quotations if possible), authors who have written about this theme (explain why they chose to write about the theme), or think about a time period when the theme was influenced (explain why that specific time period was influential).

### **Personal Word Waterfall:**

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## Theme Exploration:

**Small Group Subtheme and Definition:**

**Authors who write and highlight this theme in their writing pieces. Explain the author, why they choose to write about this theme, and what they say about the theme.**

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**Written pieces that focus on the theme. Provide quotations as evidence or explanations when possible.**

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**Think about one of the time periods when this theme was influenced. Explain why and how this time period influenced the theme.**



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