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Exploring Identity

by [Margaret William](#)

Grade/Level:

Middle School (Ages 12–14)

Subject:

Arabic

Time:

60 minutes

Objective:

- Students will reflect on and express their identity in Arabic.
- Students will practice speaking, writing, and creative skills.
- Students will develop vocabulary related to personality and self-expression.

Lesson Outline:

1. Warm-Up (10 min)

- Write the word "**Identity**" on the board.
- Ask students: *What does "identity" mean?*
- Brief class discussion: brainstorm ideas and words related to "identity" (e.g., hobbies, talents, culture, dreams).

2. Guided Discussion (15 min)

- Display and discuss the following questions one by one:
 - If you had to describe yourself in three words, which would they be and why?
 - What are you most proud of about yourself?
 - What do you love doing the most that truly feels like a part of who you are?
 - Who or what inspires you the most, and how does that influence your life?
 - If you could be known for something, what would it be?
 - Encourage students to share short answers verbally with a partner or small group first, then with the class.
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3. Writing Activity (20 min)

- Explain the homework task: writing a paragraph about themselves and drawing a self-portrait.
 - Model how to write a paragraph:
 - Start with an introduction ("My name is..., and I would describe myself as...")
 - Use some ideas from the discussion.
 - End with a closing sentence ("This is who I am, and I am proud of it!")
 - Students begin writing their paragraph in class (you can finish it at home if time runs out).
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4. Drawing Activity (10 min)

- After writing, students start drawing a picture of themselves next to their paragraph.
 - This can be a realistic drawing or a symbolic one (showing their interests or dreams).
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5. Wrap-Up (5 min)

- Quick volunteers: a few students share one sentence from their paragraph or show their early sketches.
 - Remind them to complete the homework if unfinished: *Finish your paragraph and your drawing for next class!*
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Homework:

- Finish writing your paragraph describing who you are.
 - Complete your self-portrait.
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Assessment:

- Participation during the discussion.
- Completion and thoughtfulness of the paragraph and drawing.

See separate appendix for letter exchange from the Somali teachers: (PPT)