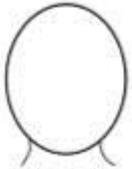


**Title:** “I Am” Portrait of Diversity Activity

**Goals:** Based on the book *Part Asian, 100% Hapa* (2006) by Kip Fulbeck, this activity is designed to build community and help students learn about one another by expressing their identities on their terms.

**Description:** Using a template like the one template below, present to students a portrait of yourself (optional) with several “I am...” statements.

	I am....
	I am....
	I am....

Direct students to work individually to write several statements in response to the prompt “I am...” Their statements can address cultural, racial, ethnic background or any other ways that define or identify themselves. Students have written statements such as: *I am African American/African; I am a violinist; I am the grandson of a sunburnt farmer; I am not the mother of my siblings you see walking with me; I am a girl who mixes hoisin sauce with sriracha and bean sprouts and basil when she eats her pho; I am from Sri Lanka, the tiny island right below India most people forget about.*

Once students finish their statements, have them share whatever they wish with their neighbors, in pairs or triads.

**Strengths:**

**Weaknesses:**

**Variations:** This activity could be used:

- as an ice breaker for students to get to know each other.
- to set the tone to value cultural diversity in class.
- as a discussion prompt about concepts of diversity/culture.

**Participant Level:** WC, GR, P

**Prep Time:** S

**Class Time:** M

**When:** B, A

**Submitted by:** [Carolien Annink](#), [Carol Moore](#) or [Angela Lanier](#).

**Code Legend:**

Participant Level: **WC** (Whole Class); **GR** (Groups); **P** (Pairs); **I** (Individual Students)  
Prep / Class / Results Analysis Time: **S** (Short); **M** (Medium); **L** (Long)  
When to Use During Semester: **B** (Beginning); **M** (Middle); **E** (End); **A** (Any time)