

# The Person I Least Want To Be

## **Purpose:**

To stimulate small and large group discussion about what it means to be in a minority group. It helps get “stereotypes” out into the open so that they can be discussed. Also, to consider what mitigating factors might lessen the impact of being in that group. This lesson can build empathy for students who may be seen as at a disadvantage academically, socially or otherwise. Further, it can highlight the importance of support systems for all students.

## **Directions:**

- 1 Post signs with the statements in different areas of the room (see pages following these directions)
- 2 Ask participants to walk around and read the signs-then stand beside the person they would least want to be.
- 3 Get each group to discuss their choice with each other.
- 4 Then go around and ask members of each group to explain their choice.
- 5 Repeat this process with a new task-get people to stand beside the person they would most want to be.

**Also for discussion:** Ask each group to discuss the emotional components of their choice. Ask them to discuss the relationship between their choice and stereotypes. What categories might be useful?

**(Print the next 5 pages to post in the classroom for this lesson).**

**Single Mom In  
Mid30's (w/2  
small children  
and a full  
scholarship)**

**New Student  
From South  
America (who  
doesn't know  
anyone @  
Cortland or in  
the area)**

**African-  
American  
Student (who  
went to a  
predominately  
black high  
school)**

**Wheelchair**

**Bound**

**Student (senior,**

**Computer**

**Science Major**

**who already**

**has a great job)**

**Gay Student**

**w/a**

**good Support**

**System on**

**Campus**