

# What Is Identity?

## SELF

The core question: **Who am I?**

### **Looking inward**

Identity the distinguishing character or personality of an individual that we perceive or conclude through self reflection, observing one's behavior and reactions and by reflecting on our history.

*Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*

### **Looking outward**

The set of behavioral or personal characteristics by which an individual is recognizable as a member of a group [which itself can provide a point of reference for the individual]. *The American Heritage Dictionary*

Selfhood refers rather loosely to "what it means to be human." M. Brewster Smith

Selfhood: The thoughts, feelings, and behaviors that arise from the awareness of self as object and agent. Hoyle