THE SOCIAL MIRROR - LESSON PLAN

by Jessie Forbes

Syllabus link:

Students will develop knowledge and understanding of the nature of the development of personal and social identity through the study of:

- the role of socialisation and the influence of agents of socialisation on the development of personal and social identity
- the nature versus nurture debate

The following points are to be integrated across the study of *Personal and Social Identity*:

- use examples drawn from contemporary society
- assess the impact of technologies, including communication technologies, on individuals, groups and institutions.

Syllabus outcomes:

P1 identifies and applies social and cultural concepts

P10 communicates information, ideas and issues using appropriate written, oral and graphic forms

Learning intentions:

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

1. Explain how different agents of socialisation influence identity development.
2. Critically evaluate the role of social media and contemporary communication technologies in shaping personal and social identity.
3. Engage in a real-world scenario of how identity is shaped and projected in online and offline spaces.

Lesson outline:

Step	Timing	Activity	Resources
Introduction: "Your Digital Footprint"	5 mins	**Quick Poll** (Mentimeter or Padlet): Ask students: · If someone only saw your social media, what kind of person would they think you are? · How accurate is that portrayal? **Think-Pair-Share** Students reflect on the gap between their real-life identity vs. online identity.	Laptops and Mentimeter or Padlet access

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Step	Timing	Activity	Resources
The Socialisation Spectrum	15 mins	Divide the class into four groups, each representing a major agent of socialisation: • Family • Peers • School • Media. **Task** Each group must pitch their agent as the *most* influential factor in shaping identity. They should: • Give real-life examples (e.g. how schools shape values, how family passes on beliefs). • Use one personal example and one historical/ societal example. **Class Discussion** Debate which agent has the strongest influence on identity.	Student books or spare paper, pens.
The "Influencer Identity Experiment"	35 mins	**Scenario** Imagine you are a new social media influencer. You must carefully craft your online persona while considering how different socialisation factors (family, peers, school, media) affect how you present yourself. Step 1: Each student designs a fake Instagram profile (on paper or Canva), including: • A bio that reflects their chosen identity. • Three types of posts that show how they want to be perceived OR an overview of a profile. Step 2: In pairs, students "stalk" each other's profiles and try to guess the person's real-life values, beliefs, and influences. Step 3: Class discussion: • How does online identity differ from real identity? • What role do socialisation agents (family, peers, media) play in this construction? • Does nurture (social influences) override nature (innate personality traits)?	Laptops, Canva access, A4 paper, pens, textas.

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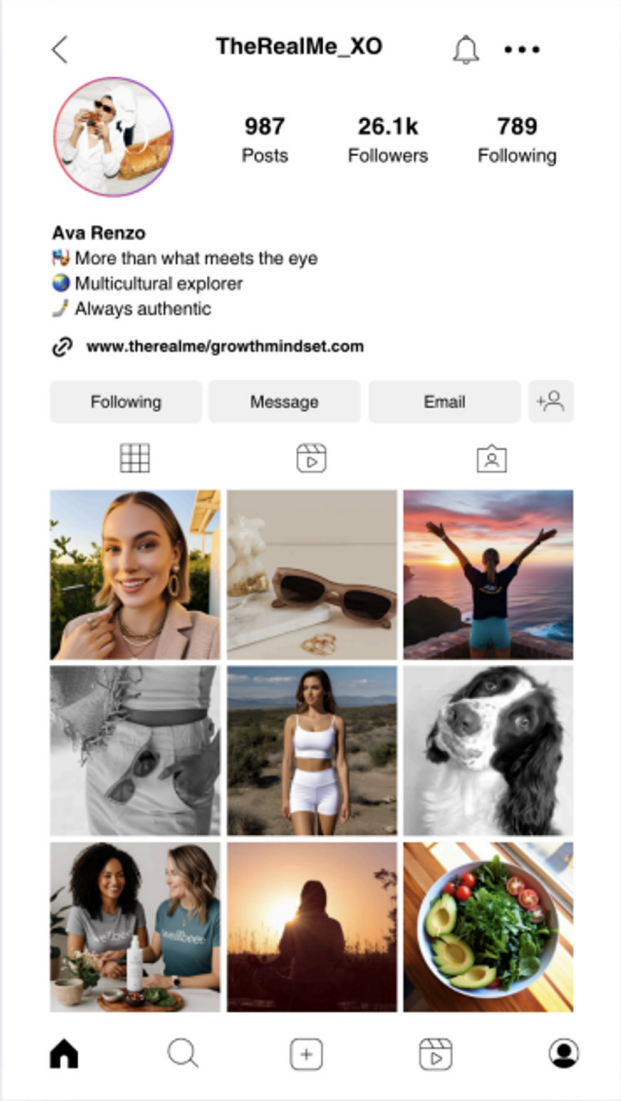
Step	Timing	Activity	Resources
Exit Ticket	5 mins	Students respond to one of these prompts: • What surprised you most about how identity is shaped? • Which socialisation agent do you think influences you the most? • How does media change how people develop their personal identity?	Post-its, pens
Extension or Follow Up		If time allows, introduce an extension activity on Erikson's identity vs. role confusion stage in adolescence and how it relates to online identity.	Resource on Erikson's theory of identity.

Example of a Profile Overview: