Labels and Whole People

Self-Worth & Identity | 20 minutes | 3-12 participants | Adults and teens 13+ with appropriate facilitation

Purpose

Separate a label from a person's roles, preferences, and current circumstances.

Materials: Paper or a printable handout, Pens or an accessible writing alternative, Optional blank cards or simple drawing materials

Invite and agree - 3 minutes

Name the purpose and the right to pass, observe, write, or use fiction. Agree that people share only their own experiences and do not promise absolute group confidentiality.

Introduce the example - 3 minutes

Someone is described only as unreliable after one mistake. Ask what is known and what is still a guess.

Practice: Card sort - 7 minutes

Separate a label from a person's roles, preferences, and current circumstances. Write short statements drawn from the example on cards. Sort using the distinctions in the task, then discuss cards that could fit more than one place.

Reflect together - 4 minutes

What information is missing from that label? Ask what fit, what did not fit, and what would make the exercise more accessible. Do not interpret another person's response.

Choose a next step - 3 minutes

Invite one optional action, support request, or question to carry forward. Passing is a valid closing response. Confirm how to seek appropriate support outside the activity.

Facilitator fit and boundaries

Let people choose identity language. Avoid appearance-based judgments, forced positivity, and assumptions about culture.

Offer observation, private writing, or a fictional example. Adapt instructions and group size to access needs. No client responses are collected by this page.

Original AI-assisted educational draft; independent clinical review pending. Version 1.0. Conceptual reading: TIP 41: Substance Abuse Treatment: Group Therapy, TIP 57: Trauma-informed Care in Behavioral Health Services. Source links appear on the online activity page.