Teen Creative Challenges

DEFINE YOURSELF

Who are you? What makes you who you are? Are you shy and creative? Are you a social rock star? Are you a deep thinker? What’s important to you? How do you define yourself at home? At school? In the world? Tell the world who you are and what is important to you with these creative ideas.

Get Creative!

- The Library has in its collections a draft script for *To Be Young, Gifted, and Black* about playwright Lorraine Hansberry, adapted from her published and unpublished works. In this script, she states: “I think that virtually every human being is dramatically interesting.” What makes you dramatically interesting? Write a poem or memoir-style reflection about what makes you unique.

- Use photography to capture the essence of Gen Z or your own individuality. Take inspiration from the Library’s collections of portrait photography by Robert Giard, photography on the New York Subways, or street scene photography in the outer boroughs.

- Create a piece of wearable art, such as a tote bag or T-shirt, that represents who you are and what you stand for to the world. Think about slogans and images that will help you tell your story. Explore the Library’s Social Political Button Collection for slogan inspiration!

Submit What You Create to Our Teen Magazine Contest!

Our new teen magazine will include writing and art by and for teens. 25 pieces selected for publication will be awarded a $100 gift card. Submit between Thursday, June 9th and Friday, August 19. You must be between the ages of 13 and 19 and live, work, or go to school in New York City to enter. Read our full submission guidelines, and submit at this link.
Read About It!

Check out the titles below in the Library’s collections about defining yourself.

Explore More!

Visit your local branch to:

- Attend programs and events
- Talk with a library staff member about what you’re reading and creating
- Get book recommendations based on your interests!