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Cultural Assimilation: Identity Development in African American Women in Higher Education

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CULTURAL ASSIMILATION

African American Womens' Membership to
Multiple Subcultures

Nikkolette Owens

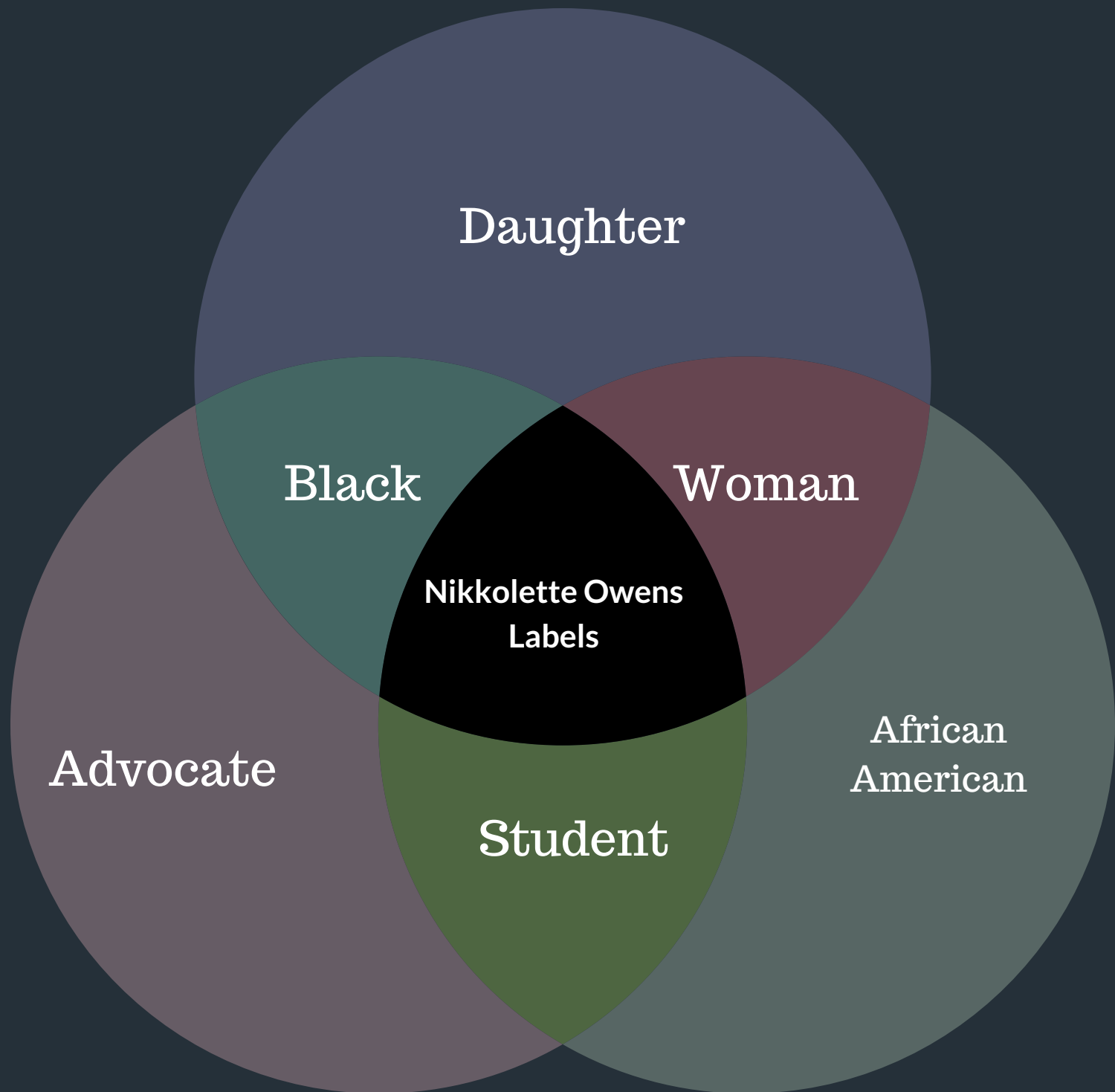
Georgia Southern University

LABELS



ACTIVITY

Take 2-3 minutes to list labels you carry with you. Rank them in order of importance.



Cultural Assimilation

Process in which a person or group's language and/or culture resemble those of another group.

Racial Socialization

Verbal and non-verbal messages transmitted to children on values, attitudes, behaviors, and beliefs that give cultural orientation to existing while black in America

So... What is Identity?

A coherent conception of self, made up of goals, values, and beliefs to which a person is solidly committed -

Erikson





NIGRESCENCE

1. The transition of the Black identity through a five-stage theory of acquisition of Black identification (Cross, 1991)

2. A process of becoming black (Cross, 1991)

Racial Identity Development Model

Cross's Black Racial Identity Development Model "Nigrescence" (Cross, 1971, 1978, 1991)	
Stage 1 Pre-Encounter	Desire to separate themselves from their racial group and assimilate and acculturate in the dominate society
Stage 2 Encounter	An awakening to racial consciousness due to experiences that calls race into perspective
Stage 3 Immersion/Emersion	Withdrawal from White culture and become immersed into Black culture
Stage 4 Internalization	A stable Black identity without having an anti-White perspective, being tolerant, more flexible, and rejecting racism and similar forms of oppression
Stage 5 Internalization-Commitment	Marked by social activism, social justice, and civil rights and a personal commitment to effecting change

*Adapted from Cross(1971, 1978, 1991) "Talking about Race, Learning about Racism: The Application of Racial Identity Development Theory



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Child and Family Development
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Nikki

Atlanta GA
Soul Food
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Black

Where I'm From Poem

I am from COD LIVER OIL, from SWEET GRASS, and SHEA BUTTER

- Nikkolette Owens



Challenging power structures from the inside,
working the cracks within the system, however,
requires learning to speak multiple languages of
power convincingly.

Patricia Hill Collins

Questions or Comments

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