

# Using Photography to Support Identity Development in Gifted Students

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**Definition of Photo Elicitation:** Using visual images to elicit conversation.

**Prompt:**

Using your cell phone camera, take 10-12 photographs that best represent your identity as a gifted individual.

**Note:**

Do not include any people in the photos who are identifiable.

**Benefits of this Approach:**

- Participants have time to be thoughtful in their responses.
- We uncover information that may not be captured using more traditional approaches.
- This approach enables teachers and counselors to probe complex topics.
- Students may be more comfortable divulging sensitive information about themselves through their photographs.
- Unpacking the photographs in conversation is non-threatening.
- Students have an opportunity to apply their creativity.
- Adolescents respond well to this approach.
- This strategy can be incorporated across the curriculum.

**Consider the possibilities:**

**Using your cell phone camera, take 5 photographs that ...**

- best represent your identity as a gifted student.
- best represent your experience as a twice exceptional student.
- best represent your identity as a gifted African American male.
- best represent your identity as a student-athlete.
- best represent your experience as a teenager who is new to this country.
- best represents how motivation plays out in your life.
- best represent your philosophical views of environmental issues facing your community.
- best represent how you are similar to Gene Forrester in John Knowles' novel *A Separate Peace*.
- best represent the platform you would design to run for public office.