

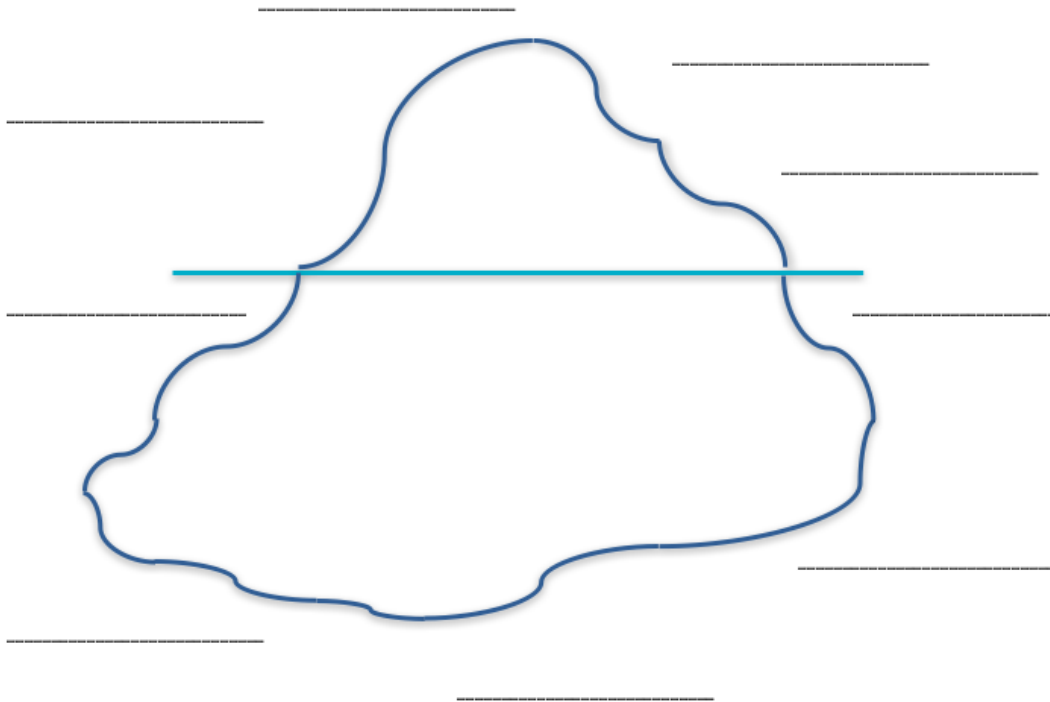
Teaching Intersectionality  
AKD Teaching & Learning Workshop  
Midwest Sociological Society 2019

In 1989, Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the term “intersectionality” to describe identity and oppression. Intersectionality is a strategy for recognizing systems of oppression and their overlapping effects across different aspects of people’s identities. Born of black feminist thought, intersectionality perfected the sociological imagination by counting vast areas of difference and interpersonal effects.

For students in all disciplines, but particularly for sociology students, intersectionality is a necessary tool for reading, understanding and critical thinking. Consider having students understand their identities and those of other people in complex ways.

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**The Intersectional Iceberg**



When the Titanic sank, it did so because the Captain’s men thought they could turn and miss the iceberg based on what they could see above water. Most icebergs, however, have much greater mass below the water line. Ignoring what they could not see and disregarding any possibility of problems, they turned hard on the starboard side.

**Imagine this iceberg is you. Above the water line, write the identities people can see or that people assume about you. Below the water line, write identities people cannot see that you experience on a regular basis. What don’t people see from the surface? What disadvantages do you face?**

