

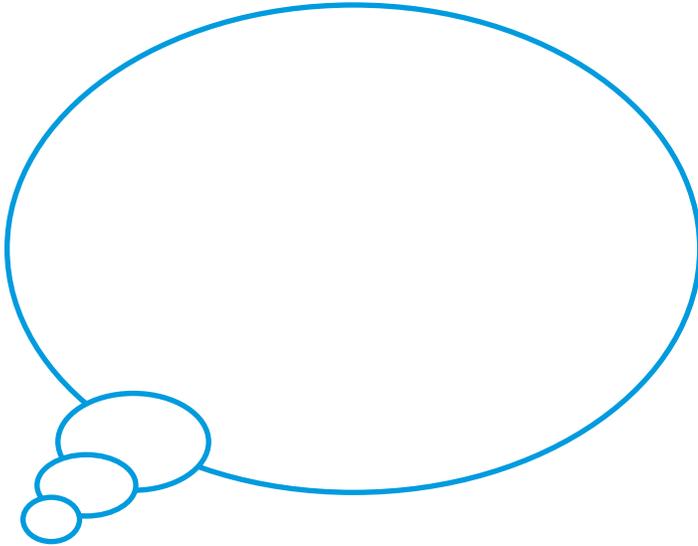


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MAKE SPARKS FLY

Think For Yourself

Be unique: Poet e.e. cummings once wrote, “It takes courage to grow up and become who you really are.” In the space below, write what you think this expression means?



One statement, among others, that this observation is making is “Be unique.” It’s important for you, as a teenager, to discover and shape your own, unique identity - which includes understanding your self-concept (Who am I?) and your place in the world (How do I matter?). Discovering and growing your sparks can help you better understand your unique identity. Spark champions, adults who support you in your sparks journey, also play an important role in helping you discover your sparks and your identity.

On a separate sheet of paper, respond in writing to the following questions:

- ▶ How do my sparks help build my self-concept (my understanding of who I am)?
- ▶ What is my unique role?

Once you have completed your written responses, share them with a partner or a small discussion group.

Find unique people: Embracing your sparks and learning how they are a part of your unique identity can be a challenging but fulfilling journey. Explore USA TODAY and find an article about someone who is authentically living life as the unique person he or she was meant to be. Read it and answer the following:

1. List reasons why you think this person is living out his/her unique identity. _____

2. How is this unique person using his/her sparks to make a positive impact? _____

3. What is the life lesson I can learn from this story to encourage myself and others to embrace our own uniqueness? _____

Share your unique voice: First, go to at15.com and become a member. Next, check out the Taylor Swift TSA and view her message about the importance of being unique. Finally, find out how you can share your unique voice by becoming a teen spokesperson in your area. Click on “About @15” and scroll down to “@15 Spokesperson” for more details. Share your unique voice with others!

