

ART AND SOCIAL JUSTICE What is a Portrait?

Individually or in small groups, have students complete these worksheets with regard to one or more of the pictures they looked at.

General Observations about the Portrait: What do you notice?

Examples: Sojourner Truth is standing up in her portrait She is wearing glasses. She is looking straight at the camera.

What does the portrait IMPLY about the subject's personality, character or the way the person lives in the world? Justify this statement with specific evidence from the portrait.

Examples: I think she is very funny and has a good sense of humor. The portrait makes me think this because she has a really big smile on her face and her eyes look like she was laughing.

TEACHING TOLERANCE

A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER TOLERANCE.ORG

How do you think the portrait's way of showing this person reinforces or fights stereotypes about African Americans as a group?

Example: The portrait shows that the person in it is very distinguished and serious. This fights against a statement that African Americans are silly and don't do important or serious things.