

Student Portrait Template: Getting to Know the Whole Learner

Use this template to "paint a portrait" of a student with a specific disability. This activity encourages understanding of their strengths, needs, and individuality—not just their diagnosis.

Disability Overview

- Diagnosis:
- Common Characteristics of This Disability:

Meet the Student

- Name:
- Age/NRS Level:
- Personality in 3 Words:
- What brings them joy?
- How do they express themselves best (e.g., words, gestures, drawing, tech)?

Strengths and Interests

- Academic Strengths:
- Social Strengths:
- Hobbies or Special Interests:
- Unique Talents or Superpowers:

Supports and Needs

- What helps this student succeed? (e.g., routines, breaks, tech tools, quiet spaces)
- What might trigger frustration or overwhelm?
- Preferred learning styles or approaches:

Best Ways to Connect and Support

- How to build trust with this student:
- Ways to include and engage them in group settings:
- What equity and dignity look like for this student:

Reflection

- What assumptions might people make about this student—and what's the truth?
- One strategy I can use to support this student better: