

Bellringer: THINK: Recall your experiences with teachers in the past. Fill in the following boxes based on your experiences, EXCEPT, refrain from naming the course, the department, or the teacher’s name. The idea is to talk openly about classroom structure, procedures, and expectations without shaming or glorifying any one particular experience.

	The BEST class	The WORST class
What did the teacher do?		
What did the students do?		

PAIR/SHARE: Find a neighbor, someone within sitting distance, no bigger than a group of 3. Discuss the experiences you jotted down. Be prepared to share your conversations with the rest of the class.

Activity: Introduction Write three questions that you have about your teacher, this course, or things in the classroom and leave space between them to get the answers. If your question isn’t asked/answered during class time, your teacher will respond directly to this worksheet. If you have more questions, feel free to add more.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Activity 2: Overview and Standards

1. Predict: What is a standard and why is it important?
2. Based on the information, what new insights do you have about standards?

* adapted from POV <http://archive.pov.org/offandrunning/lesson-plan/>

Enter: What are some of the factors that seem to play a role in shaping how you see yourself?

Explore: Viewing Guide Off and Running

Directions: Respond to the questions below as you watch a series of clips from the film Off and Running.

Clip 1: "I Sent a Letter to My Birth Parents"

1. What does Avery hope to find out by writing to her birth parents?

2. How does Avery's adoptive mother describe who Avery is?

3. Avery says she feels Jewish but is typically not recognized as being Jewish because of her race. What type of impact do you think that disconnect has on Avery's identity?

Clip 2: "Letter From Avery's Birth Mother"

4. What does the letter from Avery's birth mother tell Avery about her birth family?

5. How does Avery's birth mother respond to Avery's question about who she is? Do you agree with this response? Why or why not?

6. In your opinion, what role does family play in the development of a person's identity?

Clip 3: “Jewish Elementary School Reunion”

7. What did Avery have in common with her friend Jenna? Why do you think those factors drew them together? What does Avery’s friendship with Jenna say about how Avery defines herself?

8. Describe how Avery’s high school environment differs from the environment she inhabited in her early schooling.

9. Why do you think Avery’s Jewish friend asks her if she feels safe at her high school?

10. Explain why Avery feels that it was a lot of pressure to be the only black student in her class at the Jewish school. Why might Avery’s friends assume that her perspectives are different from theirs, even though she is part of a Jewish family?

Clip 4: “I Can Create Who I Want to Be”

11. What does Rafi see as an important difference between his identity and that of his sister, Avery?

Expand:

12. In your view, who or what defines your identity?

13. How does the way you define yourself compare with the way that others define you? How does this affect your relationships with others?

14. Can identity change over time? Why or why not?