

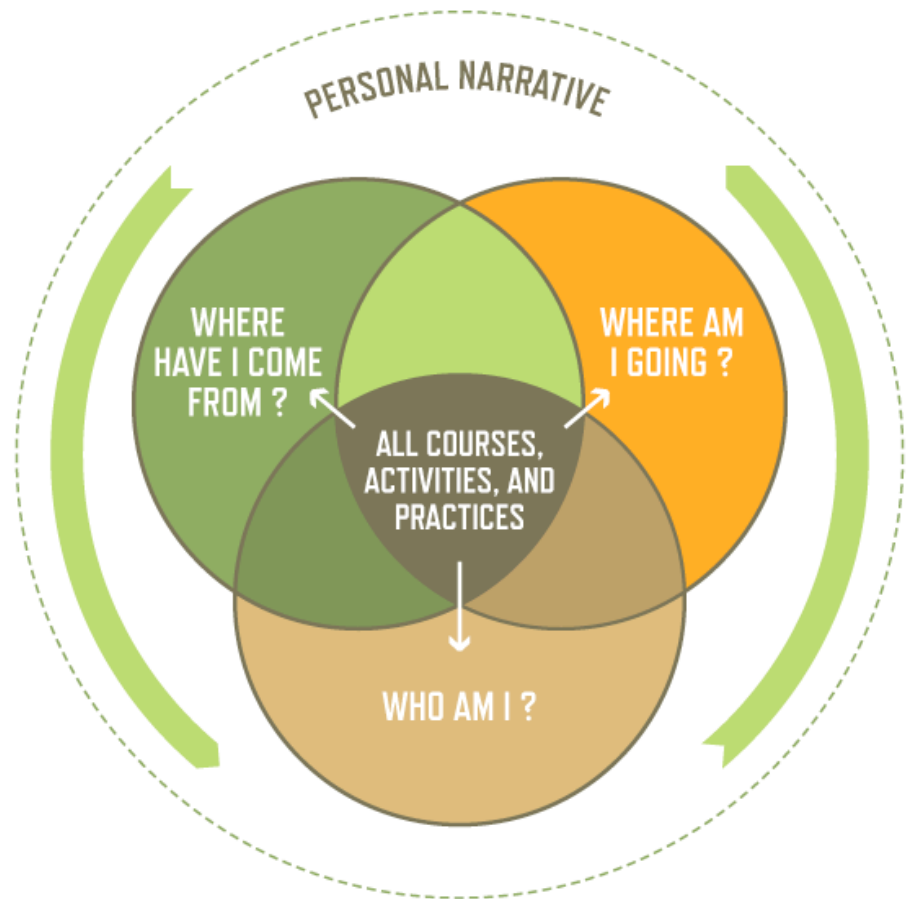


The Three Central Questions

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January 2014

All curriculum and activities at Manzanita School support our students as they answer three central questions about themselves. In this process, they develop both a Personal Narrative, as well as a “New Story” for culture. (For further information, please see the downloadable document, “Building a New Story for Our Times on the Purpose page”).

Identity formation is a central task of adolescence. The period of transition from age 9 through 15 is when youth seek to actively frame past experiences, self-concept, sense of purpose, and future potential. At Manzanita, our intention is to support each student in building of a personal narrative that can answer deep questions of origin, identity, and direction. Past, present, and future are examined through the three questions of: *Where have I come from?* *Who am I?* and *Where am I going?* All coursework and all activities at Manzanita are intended to guide students in forming clear answers to these three central questions.



When we study our human past, it is to help us know where we’ve come from and who we are. When we learn about the world around us, it must give us insight into our selves and our potentials. As we form a clearer picture of who we are, and how we have arrived at this unique moment in our shared human history, we begin to see our capacity to direct our individual lives into a purposeful future. We awaken the seeded gift of our individual genius. Forming a personal narrative is also about generating a collective narrative for our times; who are we *all together*, and how we move as a community into a healthy future for humanity. Students learn to identify a cultural story, a “new story” that is shared, and that can offer promise and optimism for positive change in our world.