IDs:
Why they’re useful, who they’re for, and how to get one.
Having an ID can be very useful, but understanding what they’re for and how to get one can be confusing. Students from Irving Estella’s ESL class at the Academy of Urban Planning in Bushwick, Brooklyn worked with CUP teaching artist Raúl Ayala to clear things up. They interviewed people on the streets and a lawyer from Make the Road NY to find out more about how people use IDs. With the information they collected, they created this booklet to share what they learned.

What is an ID?

It is a card that you can use to prove who you are.

What information does it have?

Your photo, name, address, and date of birth.

Do you have an ID?

Yes, I have a Union Card.
WHAT TYPES OF IDS ARE THERE?

PASSPORT
Where to get it: Your country’s consulate

BIRTH CERTIFICATE
Where to get it: The city government where you were born

STUDENT ID
Where to get it: School

DRIVER’S LICENCE
Where to get it: Your state’s Department of Motor Vehicles
AN ID MAKES IT EASIER TO...

Apply for a job

Receive some public benefits like health insurance

Open a bank account

Apply for some colleges
Travel on an airplane

Get a gym membership

Prove your identity to the authorities

Enter some government buildings
If you’re a US citizen and New York State resident over 16 years old, you can get a Non-Driver photo ID. It’s like a driver’s license but you don’t have to take a driving test. Here’s how to get one:

**Prepare your documents**: You will need to bring your original birth certificate and social security card, and other documents that show who you are to the Department of Motor Vehicles. Each document is worth between 0 and 6 points and you’ll need documents that add up to at least 4 points. You have many options - find out what else you can bring and their point values at dmv.ny.gov

**Go to the Department of Motor Vehicles** and fill out a form called a MV-44.1.

**Pay for your ID**: The non-driver State ID costs $9 to $10 for a 4 to 5 year ID and $13 to $14 for an 8 to 9 year ID. You can pay with cash, check or credit card.

**Go to the counter**: A DMV employee will look at your documents, form, payment, and take your photo.

Don't worry if you have trouble. There are lots of ways to get more information.

- Visit nyc.gov/html/id
- Call 311
We interviewed Sebastián Sanchez, a lawyer from Make the Road New York, and he gave us some advice.

BUT WAIT!! What should I do when someone asks me for my ID?

Don't show an ID that is from another country. It might be used against you.

You don't have to discuss your immigration or citizenship status with police or any other officials.

Use your right to remain silent. If you are stopped by a police officer, you can leave any time by asking "Am I free to go?"

Do not lie or share false documents.

The information in this booklet is not to be considered legal advice.
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The Center for Urban Pedagogy (CUP) is a nonprofit organization that uses the power of design and art to increase meaningful civic engagement particularly among historically underrepresented communities. To find out more about CUP, visit: welcomeCUP.org

City Studies is a program of the Center for Urban Pedagogy. CUP partners with public high schools and afterschool programs on project-based curricula that use design and art as tools to research the city.

CUP
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To find out more about AUP, visit: aupnyc.org

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