

CULTURAL OPENNESS AND PERCEPTION

Adapted from:

Stringer, D. M., & Cassiday, P. A. (2003). A value to D-I-E for. In *52 Activities for exploring values differences* (pp. 17-19). Boston, MA: Intercultural Press.

Whole class activities and discussion to

- Learn some new concepts
- Become more open
- Recognize the impact of culture on perception

A Pair/Share activity to

- Practice applying new skills



Take a look at the following picture.

In a few seconds I am going to ask you to describe it.

Now I need some volunteers to tell me what you saw.

We'll take notes on your descriptions here on the projector.

How are these different?

D – Description

I – Interpretation

E – Evaluation

**When I asked you to describe the picture,
what did you actually do?**

D – Description?

I – Interpretation?

E – Evaluation?

Why are they so hard to separate?



Let's try again!

Take another look at the picture.
This time, try **ONLY** to describe it.

More thoughts to ponder

- What does this have to do with CULTURE?
- “Neural signals are related less to a stimulus per se than to its congruence with internal goals and predictions, calculated on the basis of previous input to the system.” Karsten Rauss, Cognitive Scientist
- How do people from *different cultures* interpret and evaluate this picture?

Common interpretations in various cultures... What do you think?

- A. Concentration camp
- B. Political prisoners working
- C. People praying
- D. A foot race about to begin
- E. Something else entirely – be prepare to explain

Learning to Frame-Shift

Look closely at each of the following pictures.
Each can be seen two different ways.

What do you see?

- A. Young woman
- B. Old woman
- C. Both
- D. Something else



What do you see?

- A. An image
- B. A word
- C. Both
- D. Something else



What do you see?

- A. One face
- B. Two faces
- C. Three faces
- D. Something else



What have we learned through optical illusions?

- Everyone does not naturally experience events in the same way: We **frame** in different ways
- Our frame is influence by what we **notice**, and what we **know/recognize**
- We can “**catch**” **ourselves** framing and learn to **shift our frame** of reference
- **Other people can help us** experience other ways of framing

Ask yourself:

- What **assumption** am I making,
That I'm not aware I'm making,
That gives me what I see?

And when you answer that, ask yourself:

- What might I now invent,
That I haven't yet invented,
That would give me other **choices**?

*Zander, R. S. & Zander, B. (2000). The art of possibility. New York: Penguin

- What's your **gut reaction** interpretation of what is happening?
- Does that interpretation lead to **positive, negative, or neutral** evaluation?
- What are **two plausible alternate interpretations** with different evaluations (so if your first ideas was negative, think of neutral and positive explanations of that is happening)?

What are your Plus/Minus/Null D.I.E.'s?



Use your iClickers:

1. Is your first reaction (evaluation)
 - A. Positive
 - B. Negative
 - C. Neutral
2. What do you see (interpretation)
 - A. A woman being kidnapped
 - B. People catching a woman falling
 - C. A woman dancing
 - D. Something else entirely
3. What are other possible interpretations?
4. Does context matter? What if we play music while you look at the picture?

Now it's time to see what you have learned.

Working with a partner, look at the next picture and then answer the following questions.



Take notes with your partner:

1. Describe what you saw. Be sure to separate description from interpretation and evaluation
2. Now move on to interpretations and evaluation. Is your first reaction a positive, negative, or neutral evaluation?
3. Follow through with Plus/Minus/Neutral – What are other possible interpretations?



Time to share:

1. Describe what you saw.
2. Is your first reaction a positive, negative, or neutral evaluation?
3. What are other possible interpretations?
4. Do you want to know the truth
5. What “insider cultural knowledge” would you need to interpret this picture accurately?
6. Is it possible to come to different evaluations for one interpretation?