

Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to become more aware of how stereotypes develop and the consequences they have in everyday life. They will play a game that subverts their expectations surrounding pattern recognition and illuminates how confirmation bias can affect their perceptions.

Background and Information:

By the Numbers is a Thiagi Jolt, and it was originally published in *Jolt! Activities to Wake Up and Engage Your Participants* (see citation below). Instructions are also available online (see instructions on the following page).

Objectives:

As a result of this activity, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the relationship between stereotypes, beliefs, and perceptions.
2. Explore the limitations of inductive thinking, including confirmation bias.

Time:

15 minutes

Group Size:

Entire group

Materials:

Optional: Flipchart, blackboard, or whiteboard to write down the sets of numbers called out by the participants.

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Openness:

- To initiate and develop interactions with culturally different others.
- To suspend judgment in valuing interactions with culturally different others.

Links to Activity Instructions:

- [By the Numbers instructions on The Thiagi Group website](http://www.thiagi.com/archived-games/2015/2/25/by-the-numbers)

Related Tools:

Tools to use in conjunction with this lesson:

- [Working in Unfamiliar Surroundings Quiz](#)
 - This quiz may be used to help participants understand what it feels like to be stereotyped or judged based on confirmation bias.

Similar tools:

- [Alien Among Us, An](#)
- [Danger of a Single Story](#)
- [Just Rescue](#)
- [LPPT](#)
- [Meet the Trainer](#)
- [Visible and Invisible Values](#)
- [Where Do You Draw the Line?](#)
- [Who Do You Think I Am?](#)