Overview:

This lesson plan will challenge participants to interrogate their own preconceived notions and the stereotypes they may associate with individuals when they first meet them. They will first watch a video that depicts a scenario where stereotyping occurs. Then, they will discuss that video using discussion questions and talking points linked on the following page.

Background and Information:

This activity was created by the Division of Diversity and Inclusion at Purdue University for the Boiler Inclusion Project (see citation below).

Objectives:

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

1. Identify motivations behind "first impressions" among students in higher education.
2. Analyze the stereotypes that prevented or facilitated communication between the students in the video.
3. Draw conclusions from the video in order to identify strategies about how to suspend judgment and reach out to others.

Time:

15 minutes

Group Size:

Entire group

Materials:

The video (in Links) and talking points (Downloads).

Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization

AAC&U Intercultural Knowledge and Competence Goals:

Cultural Self-Awareness:

- To articulate insights into own cultural rules and biases (e.g., seeking complexity; aware of how their experiences have shaped these rules, and how to recognize and respond to cultural biases, resulting in a shift in self-description).

Openness:

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

Other Skills:

Friendship; Teamwork; Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
FIRST IMPRESSIONS VIDEO LESSON

PLAN

Links to Activity Resources:

- First Impressions video
- First Impressions talking points

Related Tools:

Tools to use in conjunction with this lesson:

- Confrontation and Dialoguing
- Implicit Bias and Self-Regulation
- Incremental Process
- Things People Say (Common Stereotypes)