

Introduction:

This activity will challenge you to practice awareness of your gut reactions by pausing and suspending judgment. You will practice articulating multiple perspectives on media content that will be presented to you. During the activity, you will be encouraged to consider the role of context and past experience in framing reactions and perceptions.

Participant Instructions:

1. After viewing the photo, discuss the following questions:
 - What's your gut reaction interpretation of what is happening?
 - Does that interpretation lead to positive, negative, or neutral evaluation?
 - What do you see?
 - a. A woman being kidnapped
 - b. People catching a woman falling
 - c. A woman dancing
 - d. Something else entirely
 - 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)?
2. After listening to the audio clips alongside the photo, discuss:
 - Does context matter? What if we play music while you look at the picture?
3. Discuss the differences between description, interpretation, and evaluation:

Description: An objective account or list of observations including details like color, quantity, etc.

Interpretation: An explanation of your description

Evaluation: Feelings or a value judgement around something - can be positive or negative.

4. Discuss:
 - What did you notice about your initial reaction to the photo? Did your thoughts lead you to immediately describe the photo, interpret the photo, evaluate the photo?
 - How might you apply your understanding of the differences between description, interpretation, and evaluation to your daily life?
5. After you are shown a short segment of a video, write down your notes to the following discussion questions, after each video segment:

For each segment of the video, write down answers to the following:

- 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)?
6. Discuss:
 - What did you notice about your reactions to the different segments of the video?
 - While music is a contextualizer we're familiar with from film and television, how does context affect the way we interpret not only imagery, but real life situations?

- Specifically, how does our cultural context sometimes color or interfere with the proper interpretation of a situation, especially one we encounter in a cultural context different from our own?
- How do you feel after completing this activity? What did it reveal to you about your perspective-taking capacity?