

## Introduction:

This activity will challenge participants to practice awareness of their gut reactions by pausing and suspending judgment. They will practice articulating multiple perspectives on a photo and a video overlaid with different kinds of audio. During the activity, participants will be encouraged to consider the role of context and past experience in framing reactions and perceptions.

## Facilitator Notes:

This activity can follow the facilitation of [D-I-E \(Describe-Interpret-Evaluate\)](#).

## Objectives:

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

1. Recognize that their perspective is one of many possible points of view.
2. Analyze their reactions by parsing description from interpretation and evaluation.
3. Imagine other potential interpretations and evaluations.
4. Practice emotional resilience while perspective-taking.

## Time:

45 minutes.

## Group Size:

Entire Group.

## Materials:

Slides and Participant Instructions (both in [Downloads](#)).

## Intercultural Development Continuum Stages:

- Denial
- Polarization
- Minimization
- Acceptance

## 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).

### Empathy

- To interpret intercultural experience from the perspectives of own and more than one worldview.
- To demonstrate ability to act in a supportive manner that recognizes the feelings of another cultural group.

## Openness

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

## Other Skills:

## Emotional Resilience.

## Activity Instructions:

1. Optional: Facilitate [DIE \(D-I-E\) \(Describe-Interpret-Evaluate\)](#).
2. Utilize the slides and notes within to facilitate the activity. For the photo example, 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)?
3. Then play the two audio clips alongside the photo, pausing to discuss:
  - Does context matter? What if we play music while you look at the picture?
4. Briefly 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.

5. 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?
6. Instruct participants to write down their notes to the following discussion questions, pausing the video at minute 1:04 and at minute 2:07 to give participants time to write down their thoughts 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?)
7. 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?