

“Confronting World Stereotypes”

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TITLE: Confronting World Stereotypes

OVERVIEW: This activity asks students to take examine worldwide stereotypes by allowing student to be put in the place of someone from a different ethnic background. Through this lesson, students have the students the opportunity to further their knowledge of lifestyles and develop an appreciation for cultural diversity and become more aware of diversity and understand the implications and effects that labeling others may have.

SUBJECT AREA/GRADE LEVEL: 7th-12th

STATE CONTENT STANDARDS / BENCHMARKS:

Analyze an event, issue, problem, or phenomenon from varied or opposed perspectives or points of view.

OBJECTIVES: The students will demonstrate the ability to..

- show greater awareness of stereotyping, racism, and cultural diversity

MATERIALS:

- Rubber bands or headbands
- construction type paper or poster board
- markers.

PRESENTATION STEPS:

1. Divide the class into groups of six.
2. Give each student a rubber band or headband with one of the six stereotypes attached to it. Each of the students will see the other students labels, but not their own.
3. Have each member of the group take turns being the Avictim.@ The other group members provide clues to the Avictim@ through verbal or non-verbal clues about their label.
4. The expected outcome is for the Avictim@ to guess his/her racial or ethnic identity from the clues
5. .On each headband are the descriptions:
 1. Person of Chinese or Japanese background
 2. Person of Indian descent
 3. An African person
 4. A person of Latino background
 5. A person from Russia
 6. A Caucasian
6. After the activity is over, ask students how they felt about the stereotype that was placed on them, and the treatment or clues they were given? Do they have a better sensitivity to stereotypes?

ASSESSMENT:

After the discussion, have each student write a reflective paper on how it would feel to go to a new school or country where they were a minority. Then, have them write about how they and the school can help to eliminate stereotypes. Students should become more aware of diversity and understand the implications and effects that labeling others may have.

ADAPTATIONS: This activity could be done for any stereotype or ethnicity. The teacher could change the names for the headbands to whatever they wanted. Any stereotype could be included.

EXTENSIONS: This activity would work well during a unit on civil rights or when studying a different nation of the world. It would especially work well as an ice-breaker at the beginning of the year to diffuse stereotypes. Terms like jock, computer nerd, cheerleader, punk, cowboy, etc. could be used.