

Open your Class with this Tomorrow

This activity is inspired by *Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America* by Linda Tirado

Part I:

For each of the following categories, write down the first thoughts or ideas that you think of when considering these types of individuals. Try to come up with at least three characteristics for each of the categories, but feel free to write as many as you wish.

Category	Characteristics	(N) (T) (P)
Waitress		
Lawyer		
Teacher		
Cheerleader		
Doctor		
Business Executive		

Part II: For each of the above characteristics, indicate whether you wrote a Negative (N), Neutral (T) or Positive (P) comment.

Part III: Discussion

1. Tabulate your total number of positive negative and neutral characteristics, why do you believe you have these results?
2. Compare the list of characteristics that you compiled with others in your class. Are the lists the same or different? Why or why not?
3. Where do you believe stereotypes begin?
4. Can stereotypes be positive? Explain.
5. Can stereotypes ever serve a useful purpose? Explain.
6. What is the difference between stereotypes, discrimination and prejudice?
7. How might a self-fulfilling prophecy be related to stereotypes? How is this related to stereotype threat?
8. Do you believe that stereotypes have changed over the years? Explain.
9. How do you believe we can move beyond stereotypes to better understand individuals rather than simply members of a group?

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