

Cultural Sensitivity - Self-Awareness & Assumptions

Facilitation Guide - 60 minutes

Description

In this module, participants are provided a structured and supported space for practicing self-awareness and reflection, which is critical to bringing forward positive change. Participants will consider the importance of asking ourselves critical questions about how our identity impacts our perceptions of the world around us, ideally leading to a greater collective empathy and understanding for others. The way in which we view ourselves (and others) influences the language we use, how we communicate, how we engage with the systems around us, and how we go about making change in our sphere of influence.

Learning Objectives

Participants will...

- Practice self-awareness and reflect on their own identity through a series of discussions and exercises.
- Examine their own assumptions and perceptions related to their role as a museum professional.
- Explore tools for developing reflective practices to support continued growth in themselves and in their museum context.

Materials

Pre-work

- Identity Pie video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1EVTyS6vm5E>

Presentation

Pre and Post Assessment

Optional: [Virtual Question Parking Lot](#) (i.e. Jamboard)

Facilitator Guide

Welcome and Getting Started (Slides 1-5) - Introduce yourself and your role. Share the purpose of the session and discuss the Learning Objectives.

5-10 Minutes

Tips & Tricks

- Key Ideas to Highlight
 - This is going to be fun! You'll learn a lot.
- Resources to Share
 - Pre-Assessment

- We will...
 - Present the module's agenda.
 - Introduce the Learning Objectives
 - Provide our definition of self-awareness.

Consider – Using a virtual tool like Jamboard to serve as a question parking lot for participants to share questions that come to mind throughout the module.

Assumptions & Perception (Slides 6-11) - In this section, we'll encourage participants to begin thinking about how assumptions and perceptions can influence their view of science, museums, and other people. We will also discuss if objectivity and neutrality in science are possible.

10 Minutes

Tips & Tricks

- Key Ideas to Highlight
 - Assumptions and perceptions
 - Objectivity and neutrality
- Resources to Share

- We will...
 - Provide an initial exercise to recognize that we are constantly assuming/perceiving.
 - Raise questions about assumptions and perceptions to consider throughout the series
 - Revisit exercise from earlier slide
 - Discuss the relationship between our own assumptions and science/museums
 - Discuss if objectivity and neutrality are possible
 - Discuss how our perspectives affect each other

Self Awareness (Slides 12-17) - In this section, we'll cover the idea of self-awareness, what that means to participants, and how it impacts their worldview.

10 Minutes

Tips & Tricks

- Key Ideas to Highlight
 - Identity
 - Self-awareness
- Resources to Share

- We will...
 - Raise questions about self awareness to consider throughout the series
 - Provide an exercise that challenges participants to consider what influences their perceptions

- Ask participants to distinguish between thoughts, beliefs, values, and “facts”
 - Consider how we value alternative perspectives
- Ask participants to consider how their identity affects their worldviews
 - Within the museum and in everyday life

Social Identity (Slides 18-20) - In this section, we’ll cover the relevance of social identity on assumptions and perceptions.

10 Minutes

Tips & Tricks

- Key Ideas to Highlight
 - Your intention vs interpretation by others
- Resources to Share

- We will...
 - Ask participants to consider their experiences of privilege/marginalization to identify patterns in assumptions
 - Challenge participants to consider how they are perceived
 - Discuss intention vs other’s interpretation

Critical Consciousness (Slides 21-23) - In this section, we’ll provide participants with a critical consciousness self-reflection worksheet to complete as homework.

5 Minutes

Tips & Tricks

- Key Ideas to Highlight
 - Remember: Self-awareness is a journey.

- Take a few minutes to introduce the assignment.
- Explain what the expectations for the homework are, keeping in mind that everyone is at a different place in their journey to self-awareness.

Creating a Thoughtful Team Page (Slides X-X) - In this section, we’ll provide a group exercise for participants to create a thoughtful team page.

30 Minutes

Tips & Tricks

- Key Ideas to Highlight
- Resources to Share

- Allow approximately 30 minutes for participants to create a thoughtful team page.
 - This exercise asks participants to act as a member of a project team, and practice self-awareness of their role.

- Requires the website to have a team profile section.

- **Questions?** - Check to see if your audience has any questions about the presentation. If used, refer back to the virtual question parking lot (i.e. Jamboard) to answer any last questions.
- **Thank you!** – Give yourself a round of applause! Share link to post-assessment for the final Check for Understanding.