

Wall of Stereotypes

Instructions: Post cling sheets on the walls throughout the room and label each sheet by race and sex (SEE EXAMPLES BELOW). Each participant will write a one or two-word adjective or a brief phrase (e.g. athletic, identity crisis, great event planners, etc.) for every category. Participants should be honest- this is what will make the activity effective. Words or phrases should not be repeated. If someone has already written down what you wanted to write, place a check mark beside it and come up with something else. Participants should walk around when they are finish to reflect on the descriptions listed for each group.

Objective: Understand how society and various outlets (media, educational system, etc.) label and stereotype certain sexes and racial groups; gain awareness about one's own pre-conceived notions; and generate an open and honest dialogue to identify how perceptions play out in our daily interactions.

White Male	White Female	Asian Male	Asian Female	Biracial Male	Biracial Female
Latino Male	Latina Female	Black Male	Black Female	Native American Male	Native American Female

Discussion Questions:

1. What was the purpose of this exercise?
2. How did it make you feel to see specific words on each category?
3. How did you react after seeing the words used to describe the category you identify with the most?
4. Did you notice any trends in similarities or differences?
 - a. If all words/phrases were negative on each category, why did the group steer away from positive words?
5. IF another adjective was added to a particular group, how would this change your choice of words (e.g. Homosexual Asian Male)? What does this tell us?
6. What can you take away from this exercise as it relates to your role as a student leader? How can it be applied in your classes, day-to-day lives, etc.?