

CULTURE GALLERY

This is an exercise which focuses on the natural human reaction of grouping new information with currently known information in order to be able to deal with all of the new information Seamed over the course of time.

Each group has four people in it, grouped intentionally to provoke discussion around a certain issue that workers may hold values, beliefs or stereotypes and could adversely effect their ability to conduct risk assessment.

The following questions were asked about each group: **Do the people in this group have similar qualities? Would it be possible to stereotype anyone in the group based on information known about one or more of the group members?**

Sample Group: **Female Tennis Stars:**
C Everet, S Graf, BJ King and M.Navartalova

Discussion: We could believe they were all gay. Discussed how our personal feelings about sexual choice could affect a risk assessment.

Group 1: **People who overcame hardships**
M. Matin (deaf); S. Wonder (blind), M. Lemieux (Hodgkin); B, Dole (war injury or being republican – take your pick)

Discussion: We could believe that they were all republicans!!! Discussed how our personal feelings regarding handicaps could affect a risk assessment.

Group 2: **Dead Drug Abusers**
J. Belushi; J. Hendrix; J. Garci; J. Joplin

Discussion: We could believe that all entertainers are drug abusers. I upset some "Dead Heads" by putting Garcia in this group because, as they pointed out, all the others died from a drug overdose, and he did not! Discussed how our personal feelings about drug use/abuse could affect our risk assessment.

Group 3: **Middle East Leaders**
Saddam, King Fadt, Arafat, and Khomeni

Discussion: We could assume that they are like because they all are from the Middle East. We discussed how by making the same assumptions about clients from a particular culture, we may adversely affect our risk assessment.

Group 4: **Black Comedians**
Whoopie, Cosby, Pryor, Murphy

Discussion: We could assume they all are drug users (like Pryor) or all are highly educated (like Cosby). If we are quick to assume anything about our clients, we run the risk of doing a poor risk assessment.

Group 5: **Jewish Beliefs**
H. Cosell; S. Spielberg; Sammy Davis Jr.; and Einstein

Discussion: How do our own religious beliefs impact risk assessment done with clients of another belief system?

Group 6: **Reporters**
Geraldo; Chung; Bradley; Cronkite

Discussion: We may expect the same type of reporting from all, and be sadly disappointed by Geraldo! We could expect two sisters, both mothers and clients of the agency, to respond to agency intervention in a similar fashion, making us create similar treatment plans. ...

We had fun with this. And it generated discussion