



Activity 3

How I See It

Objectives:

- Highlight that everyone believes reality is real—things are the way they are—but the truth is that one person's perception of an event or idea might not be the same as someone else's perception of that same event or idea. Two people can look at the same thing, like the same example of behavior, and see two entirely different things.
- Understand that many students come from a different culture and have different life experiences than the school staff working with them. This activity helps participants recognize that any behavior has at least two interpretations. First, what the person doing the action thinks they are expressing; and second, the meaning that a person who observes the action gives to it.
- Participants will be able to articulate how their personal cultural perspectives affect their interpretations of situations they encounter.

Steps:

1. Distribute one *How I See It* worksheet per participant.
2. Read the first behavior out loud to the group and have participants write their immediate first response to or interpretation of the behavior.
3. Continue to read the behaviors out loud and have participants write their individual responses to each behavior or have them complete their responses on their own.
4. If time allows, have participants share their responses so all can see the variations in responses.

(Adapted from Culture Matters: The Peace Corps Cross-Cultural Workbook)



CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS ACTIVITIES

HANDOUT for Activity 3

Worksheet: *How I See It*

Read the description of the ten behaviors listed and write down your immediate response to or interpretation of that behavior. Do not think about it too much—there are no “right answers”, simply those based on your culture and life experiences.

Example: A person comes does not answer your phone calls.

Your interpretation: This person is rude and is doing it on purpose.

1. Mario does not want to get out of bed.

Your interpretation: _____

2. Alice speaks on the phone at a rapid pace.

Your interpretation: _____

3. Chandra is not taking showers.

Your interpretation: _____

4. Elizabeth is no longer painting, an activity she has always enjoyed.

Your interpretation: _____

5. Marvine agrees to a date and time for tutoring and but does not show up.

Your interpretation: _____

6. Amanda cannot concentrate on the lesson and seems a million miles away.

Your interpretation: _____



CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS ACTIVITIES

7. Ricardo has lost a lot of weight since you saw him last. You ask if he is okay and he says he has not been eating much.

Your interpretation: _____
_____.

8. Leti tells you that she is giving away all of her valuables.

Your interpretation: _____
_____.

9. Jorge tells you that he lies awake at night thinking and he cannot relax enough to go to sleep.

Your interpretation: _____
_____.