

I. Diversity Awareness <http://www3.kumc.edu/diversity/may.html>

II. May's Diversity Activity: MY LIFE IN A BAG

This 45 minute diversity exercise uses cultural artifacts to help participants clarify their cultural identities and build pride. The results can form the basis of an ethnic awareness portfolio using the collection, selection and reflection model.

Procedures: Ask participants to gather the following in preparation for the meeting:

Bring five (5) items in a small paper bag that represent important aspects about you as a person. One item should be a certificate or award and another should illustrate your cultural roots or ethnic identity.

Describe on a piece of paper no larger than 3"x5" any of the five (5) items too large to put in the bag.

Plan 40-45 Minutes to conduct the exercise.

1. Divide participants into teams of two members.
2. Distribute one page of lined writing paper to each participant.
3. Have each participant print his/her full name on the paper and exchange it with his/her partner.
4. Tell the participants to exchange their bags and they have five minutes to examine the contents.
5. Ask each participant to write on the lined paper a description of the other participant based on the bag's contents. (10-12 minutes)
6. The participants exchange and read each other's descriptions. (5 minutes)
7. The participants take alternating turns to explain how/why each object represents his/her identity. (10-12 minutes).
8. Conduct a class discussion about the exercise, focusing on how initial perceptions contribute to cultural misunderstanding. (10-15 minutes)

Source: Caruso, J. (1999). My Life In A Bag. Electronic Magazine of Multicultural Education [Online], 1 (4), 2 paragraphs.

Available: <http://www.eastern.edu/publications/emme/1999fall/caruso.html>

II. Racial/Ethnic Terminology: "THE MAGIC NEGRO"

We are in an interesting time, when many are pushing to hold others accountable for what is done or said, but what role does the communicator have in regards to the action's or language's level of offensiveness. Review the sequence of links and see if your opinion changes based on your perception of the communicator.

1. <http://diversityinc.com/public/1750.cfm>
2. <http://www.latimes.com/news/opinion/la-oe-ehrenstein19mar19,0,5335087.story?coll=la-opinion-center>
3. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magical_Negro

IV. Diversity Resource Material

Penn State University has included on the web some of their previous copies of diversity education. [http://diversityeducation.cas.psu.edu/Newsletters/DI1\(5\).pdf](http://diversityeducation.cas.psu.edu/Newsletters/DI1(5).pdf)

In terms of creating a respectful environment, people should have some information about the path each of us has traveled in order to have a better appreciation of who they are.

V. Monthly Diversity Article:

Is America Ready For A First Black President: Let's See How The Others Did?

<http://www.diversityinc.com/public/1461.cfm>