



## Perpetuating Views of the World

### Part 1

A. Work in groups. Listen to the possible captions for this photo. Select the one you think is the best. Explain.



### B. Read the following

1. What do you think is happening in the picture?

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2. How does it make you feel?

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## Part 2

**A. Work in pairs. There are two candidates for president of the student council at your school. Student A reads the description of Candidate 1. Student B reads the description of Candidate 2. Then complete the statement.**

I **would / would not** vote for this candidate because \_\_\_\_\_.

### Candidate 1

Characteristics:

- Is very organized and efficient
- Has good grades and always does homework on time
- Has lots of new ideas
- Uses technology a lot
- Always takes the leader position in group activities
- Sometimes thinks his ideas are the only good ideas
- Often talks too much and doesn't listen
- Sometimes thinks he knows more than the teacher



### Candidate 2

Characteristics:

- Always wants to be the leader in group activities
- Sometimes thinks his ideas are the only good ideas
- Often talks too much and doesn't listen
- Sometimes thinks he knows more than the teacher
- Uses technology a lot
- Is very organized and efficient
- Has good grades and always does homework on time
- Has lots of new ideas



**B. In pairs, explain whether or not you would vote for the candidate you read about. Give reasons.**

**C. As a class, discuss the questions.**

1. How does a person's appearance affect your view of that person?
2. How do the things you read affect your view of that person?
3. Do you ever just read part of an article about a person, place, or event? If so how does that affect your view?



**Part 3**

**A. Read the text. Then circle F (Fact) or O (Opinion) for the statements below.**

I'm 14, and I live in a small town in the middle of the USA. In my town, most people are really friendly, and everyone knows each other. My aunt lives in New York, and last summer she invited us to visit her. I didn't really want to go because some people say a lot of bad things about New York City. They say there's a lot of crime there, and it's dangerous. They say people are unfriendly and often rude. In a lot of movies or TV shows, you see New Yorkers yelling at people. I saw a video on the internet of a really rude woman in New York in a **parking lot**. She started kicking a man's car because she wanted his parking space!

Well, we visited New York in June. And guess what? People in New York are a lot like the people in my hometown. They don't all look like the people in my hometown because people from all over the world live there, but they're friendly and helpful. When we were looking at the map near the **subway**, people always asked if we needed help with directions. We also took taxis a few times. All the taxi drivers are really nice! They gave us a lot of information about places to visit in the city. People smiled at us and asked if we liked their city. I mean, life is faster there and people are in a hurry. They even talk faster! There's a lot of traffic, and sometimes people get impatient, but that doesn't mean they're not friendly. We walked a lot every day, and we never saw any crime. It's a beautiful, fun city, and I loved it.

My mom explained that a stereotype is an idea that a lot of people have about a type of person or a place. She said that stereotypes are negative and aren't true. So the stereotype of New Yorkers is that they're rude and unfriendly, but that isn't true. Sometimes you have to get to know a place or a person to see what they're really like. We should be careful not to believe everything we hear or read until we find out for ourselves.

parking lot  
subway

car park  
underground

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|---|-------|
| 1. The writer doesn't live in a big city.                     | F / O |
| 2. She didn't want to visit New York City.                    | F / O |
| 3. People in New York are not very friendly.                  | F / O |
| 4. Taxi drivers in New York are nice.                         | F / O |
| 5. The taxi drivers gave the girl and her family information. | F / O |
| 6. New York City is beautiful and fun.                        | F / O |

**B. Work in groups. Discuss the questions.**

1. In your country, what are some beliefs about specific groups of people or places? Are these beliefs positive or negative?
2. How true are these beliefs? Why do you think they become common and continue to exist?
3. Have you ever visited another place that you had strong beliefs about? If so, did you change your opinion after you visited the place? Explain.
4. How can we stop spreading stereotypes of different people or places?



### Extension

**A. Choose a statements below (or a statement about another common belief). Make notes about why you do or don't believe it.**

- People in small towns are friendlier and more honest than people in big cities.
- People in small towns are less educated and knowledgeable about the world than people in big cities.
- Girls feel emotions more strongly than boys.
- Boys are better at math and science than girls are.
- Technology has made teenagers today less lonely than teenagers in the past.
- Playing video games is very bad for you.

**B. Research the topic and/or ask different classmates what they think about it. When you have finished, say whether you have changed your opinion. Give reasons.**

**C. Is it important to question your opinions and try to find out more information? Why or why not?**