**Chapter 8 Handouts**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Reflections on Mindless Stereotyping and Racist Rant**

**+ A Musical Response**

Note: The videos used for this exercise may not be fully accessible to all students,

View: UCLA student Alexandra Wallace’s [rant](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGhaY1R-FQY) on fellow students in the library.

Then view: Jimmy Wong’s [reaction](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zulEMWj3sVA) to Alexandra Wallace.

Answer the following questions and get ready for Chap 8: Biases Discussion

1. What were your gut-level reactions to Alexandra Wallace’s rant of fellow UCLA students? Which message grabbed your attention? What do you think of Jimmy Wong’s song in response?

2. Have you ever been excluded or felt like an “outsider” to a group? How did that make you feel? Briefly, describe your experience.

3. Have you (or going along with your friends) ever excluded others—intentionally or unintentionally? What happened? What are your feelings about the incident now?

4. What can you do personally to reduce prejudice/discrimination in your everyday life? Reflect about the current news, and identify and discuss two mindful strategies that you would actually use to reduce racism in your work life, school life, or family/relationship life.

 (*continue on back if needed)*

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**Reflecting on Ethnocentrism and Attribution Biases\***

Instructions: Answer the following questions based on the concepts in Chapter 8, applied to your personal experiences. Please share as much as you are comfortable with:

Question 1: Chapter 8 (in the section titled “Ethnocentrism and Communication”) discusses three communication degrees of ethnocentrism: distance of indifference, distance of avoidance, and distance of disparagement. Discuss a time when you experienced or witnessed one of these distances of ethnocentrism. What happened and how did you react? Please be sure to label which specific distance your example is discussing.

Question 2: Chapter 8 (section titled “Intergroup Attribution Biases”) discusses the “principle of negativity” which states that individuals usually place more emphasis on negative information concerning their competitors or outgroup members. That is, bad news concerning outgroup members catches our eye more than good news, and individuals often fall back on negative stereotypes when interacting with outgroup members. Have you ever experienced or witnessed the “principle of negativity” being used against yourself or someone else? What happened and what was your reaction?

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*\*Source*: Original exercise developed by Adrian Toomey, MA, California State University, Fullerton.

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**Interactive Probes for**

**“Friendly Teasing or Verbal Harassment?**

(Ask yourself and probe your classmates' reactions)

1. What happened in this critical incident? How would you analyze the case? To what extent can you relate to Jessica's experience?

2. In both conversations, were they merely friendly teasing or casual jokes? Were both episodes involving language misunderstandings?

3. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 = strongly disagree and 10 = strongly agree, how would you rate the first episode as a verbal harassment episode? How so?

4. On a scale of 1 to 10, with 1 = strongly disagree and 10 = strongly agree, how would you rate the second episode as a verbal harassment episode? How so?

5. Given what you know about connotative meanings and language pragmatic rules, what would you say to Peter, Alex, and Jessica?

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