

## What do you think?

Have participants in your workshop discover their own prejudices in a non-threatening environment. This activity provides an anonymous way for people to freely express themselves. The results will surprise you.

Choose nationalities which are appropriate for your school population. For example, if your audience has no experience with Somalians, they would not be able to respond with an impression of this culture. The example below may not be appropriate for your own population.

Give your participants 10 index cards and a sheet of paper with 10 "I think" sentences. The number of sentences can be varied with the size of the audience.

Have them write the name of a culture on the top of the card and two or three quick impressions to complete the sentence. I encourage participants to jot down the first ideas that come into their heads. Everyone should work individually.

Write the name of each culture on a card in large letters and put them on a table. Ask participants to separate their cards and put them in the correct pile. When everyone is finished, you should have a pile for each culture.

Divide participants into 10 groups. Give each group a pile of cards to discuss. What were the reactions? Were there negative or positive comments? How does the group feel about the words or expressions used to describe each culture? How did the descriptions of "Americans" compare to those about other cultures? Did the results surprise the group?

## **I think that:**

1. Korean people are:
2. Spanish people are:
3. Arab people are:
4. Irish people are:
5. Japanese people are:
6. French people are:
7. Russian people are:
8. American people are:
9. Chinese people are:
10. Indian people are: