



STEP #1/1

MAYBE WE HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN WHAT WE THINK?

After you have watched the video, please discuss the following questions:

Do I have the experience that someone puts me in a box and thinks they have nothing in common with me?
How did I experience this and how did I deal with it?

Have I ever put other people in a box and thought that they are completely different from me, so that nothing connects me with them? If so, how do I deal with this?

Do I have the experience of finding out that another person doesn't belong in the box I put him in and that we have more in common than I thought? How did I discover that?

STEP #1/2

THE DANGER OF A SINGLE STORY

After you have watched the video with Chimamanda Adichie, please discuss the following questions:

Do I have the experience of being determined by others on the basis of a "single story"?

If so, what stories have I been reduced to?

How did I experience this and how did I deal with it?

When I think of your own dealings with other people: Have I ever reduced another person to a single story?

If so, how do I deal with this?

And: What helps me to open my mind and become open to other, diverse stories about the other person?



STEP #2/1

GENERALIZATIONS, PREJUDICES AND DENIGRATIONS: HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM?

After your role-play please reflect in plenary:

QUESTION TO THE REPRESENTATIVES OF PREJUDICE:

How did we feel when they were representing a prejudice?

How did we experience the reactions of others?

What questions or arguments made us think and doubt our own point of view?

QUESTION TO THE OPPONENTS OF PREJUDICE:

How did we experience the situation and themselves?

What feelings did the representatives of prejudice trigger in us?

Were we able to counter prejudice?

What have we achieved?

QUESTION TO THE OBSERVERS:

What strategies did the opponents of prejudice pursue, what means did they use to contradict the representatives of prejudice and make them think?

Which feelings were recognizable among the participants? How did these feelings become apparent?

What kind of emotions and reactions did we notice in those students who were defending prejudice and in those students who were opposing prejudice? Did we notice that the actions of one side could affect the emotions and reactions of the other side?



STEP #2/2

GENERALIZATIONS, PREJUDICES AND DENIGRATIONS: HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM?

Challenges and key strategies for dealing with prejudice

What can you do if someone is generalizing and showing his/her prejudices?

You could question him/her asking to concretize and justify his/her statements. You could ask for example: How do you know this? Where did you find that information? You could confront him/her with facts, which contradict the prejudice. This presupposes, however, that you are informed yourself and the other is still open to arguments. Since this openness is not always the case, it is not always possible to convince the other. Nevertheless you can and should «say no».

What can you do if the prejudices and denigrations are aggressively expressed and you experience the other person as powerful?

This can create fear. Therefore you could ally yourself with others especially in group situations or in public. But aggression can also produce counter-aggression. So you should try to stay as calm as possible (e.g. without shouting) and at the same time to represent your position very decisively.

What can you do if the prejudices and denigrations are represented in a very plump way?

This might tempt you to become arrogant and to devalue or insult the other (who devalues other people). This makes him feel confirmed in his position. So you should reject the prejudice or the denigration clearly and unambiguously, without devaluing the other person himself.

Sometimes prejudices or denigrations make you feel violated in your own values (even if the prejudice or devaluation is about other people).

For an appropriate and clear reaction it is therefore helpful to know what is important and valuable to you. The better you know your own values, the better you can stand up for them!

REFLECTION



Try to draw a situation in which you or another person clearly experience a behaviour that is characterised by prejudices and denigration. This can be a real situation or even a cartoon. Take a picture of it.



Note three statements about yourself that you would reject because they do not adequately describe you as this concrete person or that do not respect you as the individual person that you are.