

**Project 20****Stereotypes  
and Roles****● Concept**

A stereotype is an oversimplified, hard-to-change way of seeing people who belong to some group or category. A role is an oversimplified, hard-to-change way of acting. Stereotypes and roles can act together in ways that make them difficult to break down.

**● Materials Needed**

- one copy of Scenario one
- one copy of Scenario two

**● Assembly**

1. Copy Scenario one, which appears on the next page, on a separate sheet of paper.
2. Copy Scenario two, which appears on the next page, on a separate sheet of paper.

**● Procedure**

1. Invite a participant to read Scenario one and answer the question.
2. Record any answer the participant provides on the data sheet.
3. If the participant has no response after at least one minute of consideration, provide the following information: "The nurse is a man." Ask the participant to answer the question.
4. Record any answer the participant provides, noting that the response came after you had given him or her additional information. If the additional information does not help, provide the participant with the correct answer and explain the significance of the nurse being male.
5. Repeat Steps 1 through 4 with four additional participants.
6. Invite someone who has NOT read Scenario one to read Scenario two and answer the question.
7. Record any answer the participant provides on the data sheet.
8. If the participant has no response after at least one minute of consideration, provide the following information: "The pilot is a woman." Ask the participant to answer the question.
9. Record any answer the participant provides, noting that the response came after you had given him or her additional information. If the additional information does not help, provide the participant with the correct answer and explain the significance of the pilot being female.
10. Repeat Steps 6 through 9 with four additional participants.

**Things to Observe**

Directions: Below or on a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions.

- For Scenario one, how many of the participants were able to correctly explain how the friend was able to figure out the child's name?

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- For Scenario two, how many of the participants were able to correctly explain how the friend was able to figure out the child's name?

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**Analyzing the Results**

Directions: Below or on a separate sheet of paper, answer the following questions.

1. What stereotypes might have influenced the participants' responses?

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2. What ideas about roles might have influenced the participants' responses?

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**Scenario One**

One day I ran into a nurse whom I had not seen or talked to for several years. I had heard that the nurse was married, but I knew nothing about the spouse. The nurse was holding the hand of a little boy. I asked the little boy, "What's your name?" The boy smiled and said, "Same as my dad." In response, I said, "Nice to meet you, Jack." How did I know the child's name?

**Scenario Two**

One day I ran into an air force pilot whom I had not seen or talked to for several years. I had heard that the pilot was married, but I knew nothing about the spouse. The pilot was holding the hand of a little girl. I asked the little girl, "What's your name?" The girl smiled and said, "Same as my mom." In response, I said, "Nice to meet you, Jill." How did I know the child's name?

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