UNDERSTANDING PERCEPTION DIFFERENCES

PROCEDURE:

Introduction:

Understanding that each individual brings a unique perception to his/her experiences and to the information which he/she is exposed to is not an easy concept to learn and integrate into one's view of life. This exercise helps to illustrate that we don't all think alike. Even between and amongst people who have a lot in common, perception differences exist.

1. Ask students to picture a young woman walking down the street with three young children. Ask students to respond as to what they think the relationship is between the woman and the children. List the different responses.

2. Ask students to imagine that they are in a car. They stop at a traffic light and a limousine pulls up next to the car they are in. Ask students who is in the limousine. List the different responses.

3. Lead discussion around the students' different responses. Draw parallels between how each of us perceives information differently depending on our own experiences and what we have been exposed to in our lives.

4. Have each student write about a recent conflict which she/he believes was a result of perception differences.