



UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

Understanding Bias to Unleash Potential™



Ground Rules

- Have a learner mindset.
- Be respectful.
- Ask questions.
- Be present.

Introductions

Introduce yourself and your role.

What Does Bias Mean to You?

In 30 seconds, write as many words as you can to define bias.

What Is Bias?

 A preference in favor of or against a thing, person, or group compared with another.

What Is Bias?

- A preference in favor of or against a thing, person, or group compared with another.
- It may be held by an individual, a group, or an institution.
- It can have negative or positive consequences.

ACTIVITY: BIAS IN ACTION QUIZ

As a woman's body mass increases, her pay decreases.

In the United States and other Western nations, for every 1% increase in a woman's body mass, there is a 0.5% decrease in pay.

In Canada, the US, the UK, and Australia, a job seeker with a **non-Western** name has to submit more resumes than a job seeker with a **Western** name in order to get a response from the recruiter.

Job seekers in most Western countries who have non-Western names have to submit **approximately 30% more** resumes to achieve the same results as job seekers who have Western names.

Men are far less likely than women to report being victims of domestic violence, hazing, or sexual assault.

In the UK, men are 3x as likely as women to not report being victims of domestic violence, hazing, or sexual assault; only 10% of those reporting will report to the police.

More or Less?

LGBTQ+ youth are more or less than 2x as likely to have attempted suicide compared to heterosexual youth.

More or Less?

In most Western countries, LGBTQ+ youth are actually 3x-5x as likely to have attempted suicide as heterosexual youth.

What Percentage?

While 50% of the US workforce are extroverts, they account for what percentage of leaders and managers?

A. 55–70%

B. 70-85%

C.85-100%

C. 85-100%

96% of US managers display high levels of extroversion.

More, Less, or the Same?

Brown and black Brazilians earn more, less, or the same as white Brazilians with the same background.

More, Less, or the Same?

Brown, and especially black, Brazilians earn approximately 20–25% less than white Brazilians with the same background.

What Percentage?

What percentage of male CEOs of Fortune 500 companies are over 6 feet (180 centimeters) tall?

A.30-40%

B. 40-50%

C.50-60%

C. 50-60% of male CEOs

Specifically, 58% of male CEOs of Fortune 500 companies are over 6 feet (180 centimeters) tall. 14.5% of US males are taller than 6 feet.

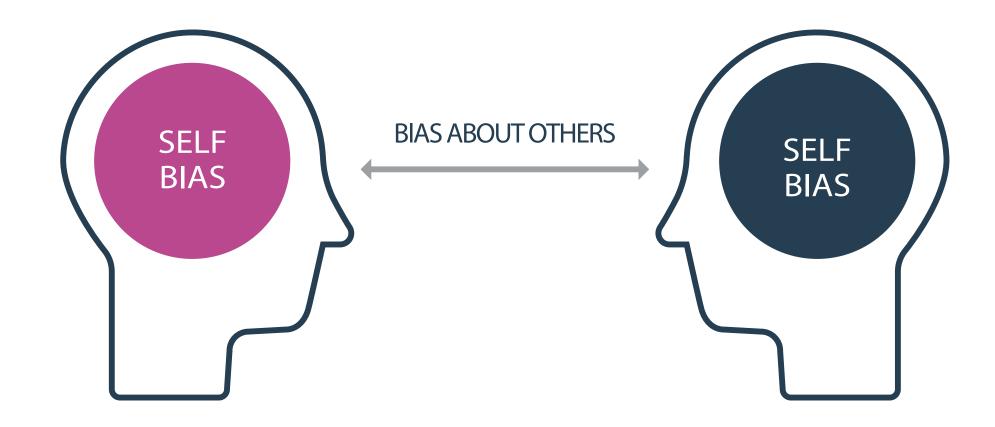
• 71% of leaders pick protégés of the same race and gender.

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- 78% of artificial-intelligence professionals are male, implying AI is being developed without diverse talent.

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- In the US, minority patients are less likely to receive pain medication than white patients.
- 78% of artificial-intelligence professionals are male, implying Al is being developed without diverse talent.
- Children with learning disabilities account for 8.6% of students in US public schools and 32% of youth in juvenile detention.





CONSCIOUS BIAS

EXPRESSED DIRECTLY

WE ARE AWARE OF THE BIAS

CONSCIOUS BIAS

EXPRESSED DIRECTLY

WE ARE AWARE OF THE BIAS

UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

EXPRESSED INDIRECTLY

WE ARE NOT AWARE OF THE BIAS

The Problem...

The biases we have about ourselves and about others significantly impact the decisions we make and the results we get.

Individually:

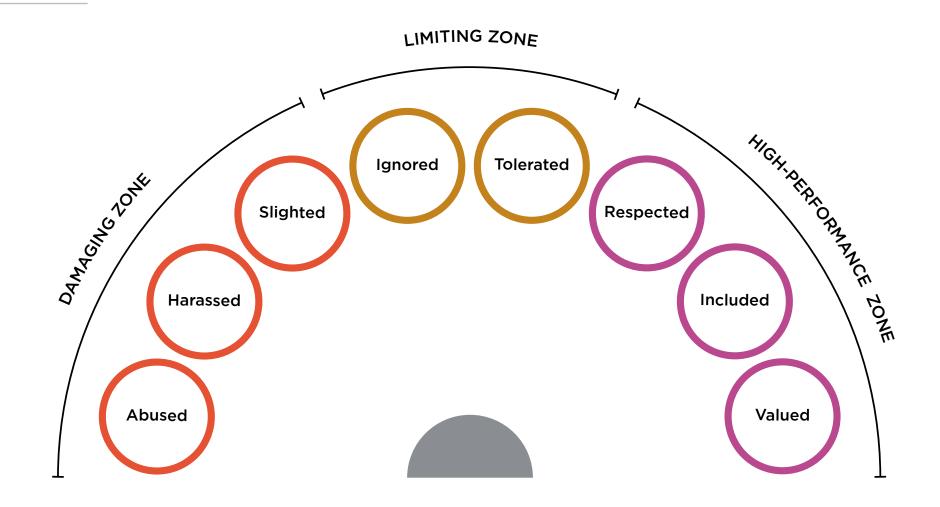
- 1. Where do you experience bias in your life?
- 2. What areas of your work and life have been affected by bias, either positively or negatively?
- 3. What is the impact?

MORE THAN YOU SEE

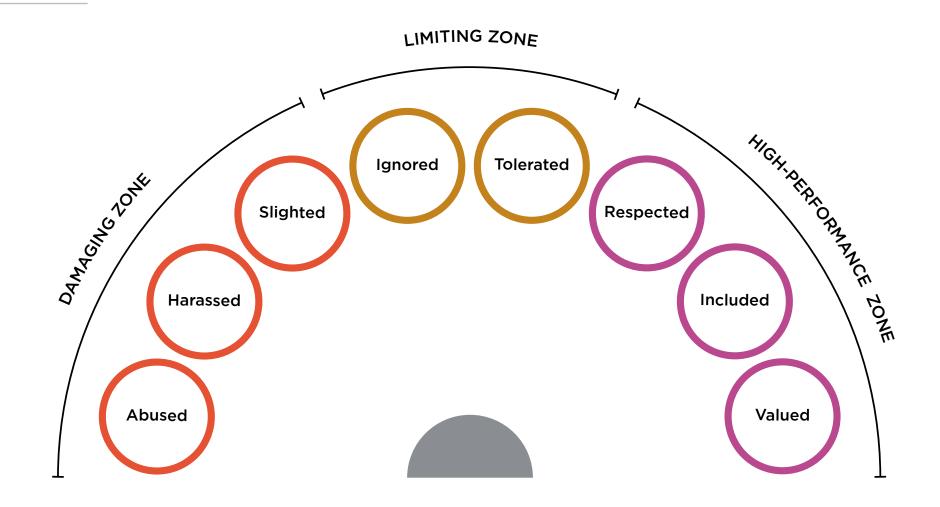
VIDEO: MORE THAN YOU SEE

What insights did you have about bias?

Impact of Behaviors



Impact of Behaviors



Companies in the top 25% on gender and racial diversity are more likely to over-perform in relation to their industry peers.

"DELIVERING THROUGH DIVERSITY," MCKINSEY & COMPANY

Companies in the lowest 25% on gender and racial diversity are 25% more likely to under-perform in relation to their industry peers.

"DELIVERING THROUGH DIVERSITY," MCKINSEY & COMPANY

Diverse and inclusive organizations are more innovative.

 Improvements in diversity policy predict increased innovative efficiency. Diverse and inclusive organizations are more innovative.

 Improvements in diversity policy predict increased innovative efficiency.

Organizations that don't mitigate bias are less innovative.

- Bias against diverse teams inhibits funding and organizational support.
- Individuals are less likely to take advice and input from women and accented voices.

Diverse teams that act inclusively:

Make better business decisions 87% of the time.

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- Are 2x faster at decision making.

Diverse teams that act inclusively:

- Make better business decisions 87% of the time.
- Are 2x faster at decision making.
- Have half the number of meetings.

"HACKING DIVERSITY WITH INCLUSIVE DECISION MAKING," CLOVERPOP

Employees who perceive themselves to be the target of bias are:

• 3x as likely to be disengaged.

Employees who perceive themselves to be the target of bias are:

- 3x as likely to be disengaged.
- 3x as likely to withhold ideas.

Employees who perceive themselves to be the target of bias are:

- 3x as likely to be disengaged.
- 3x as likely to withhold ideas.
- 3x as likely to leave their job within the year.

DISRUPT BIAS, DRIVE VALUE, CENTER FOR TALENT INNOVATION.

CHALLENGING BIAS MATTERS BECAUSE...

CHALLENGING BIAS MATTERS BECAUSE...

There is no idea more fundamental to performance than how we see and treat each other as human beings.

By applying what you learn in this work session, you will increase your ability to:

Notice and adjust for biases.

By applying what you learn in this work session, you will increase your ability to:

- Notice and adjust for biases.
- More fully respect, include, and value the people around you.

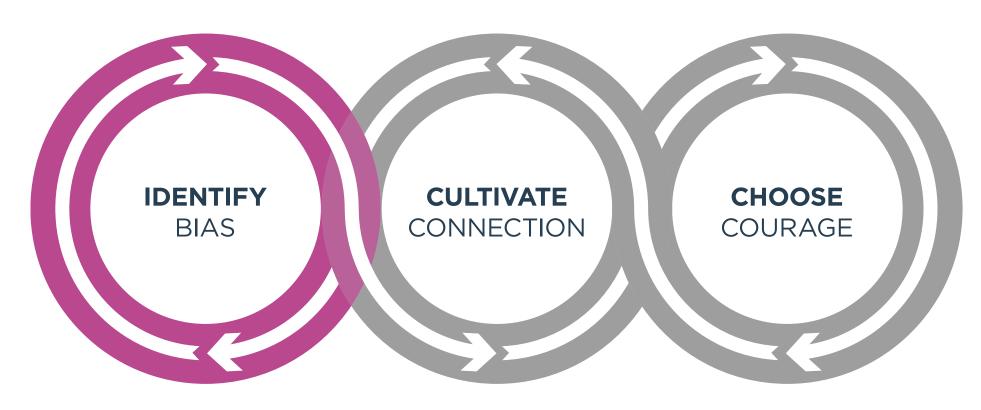
By applying what you learn in this work session, you will increase your ability to:

- Notice and adjust for biases.
- More fully respect, include, and value the people around you.
- Release everyone's potential to contribute their best.





IDENTIFY BIAS



PRINCIPLE:

Self-Awareness

Identify Bias: Roadmap

1. Our personal identity influences, and is influenced by, our biases.

Identify Bias: Roadmap

- 1. Our personal identity influences, and is influenced by, our biases.
- 2. The way our brains work creates biases.

Identify Bias: Roadmap

- 1. Our personal identity influences, and is influenced by, our biases.
- 2. The way our brains work creates biases.
- 3. Three bias traps lead us into biased thinking and behavior.

FRAME

I am not biased. I view things objectively.

REFRAME

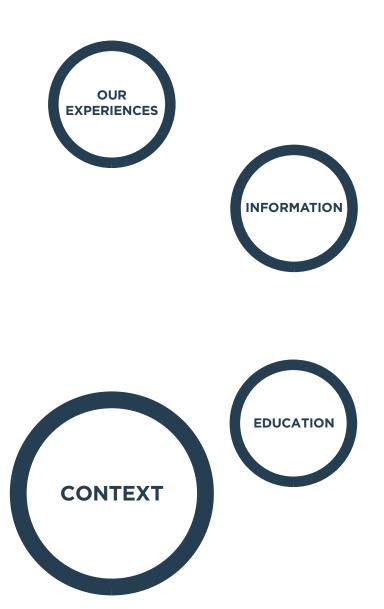
Bias exists in everyone, including me. I actively think about how bias is at play in the choices I make.

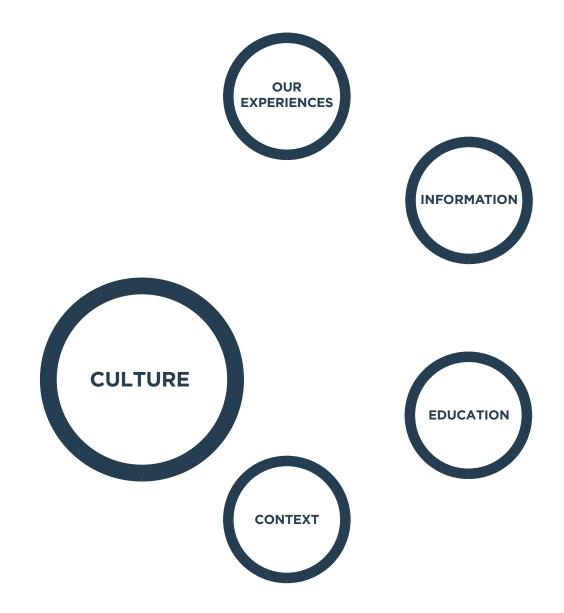
Where do biases come from?

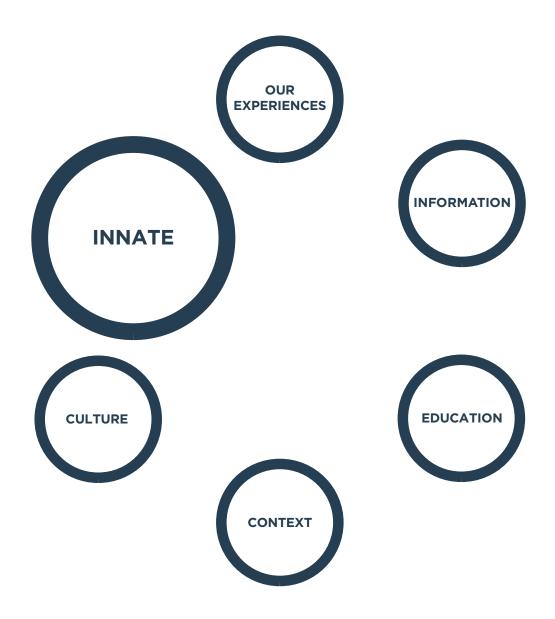


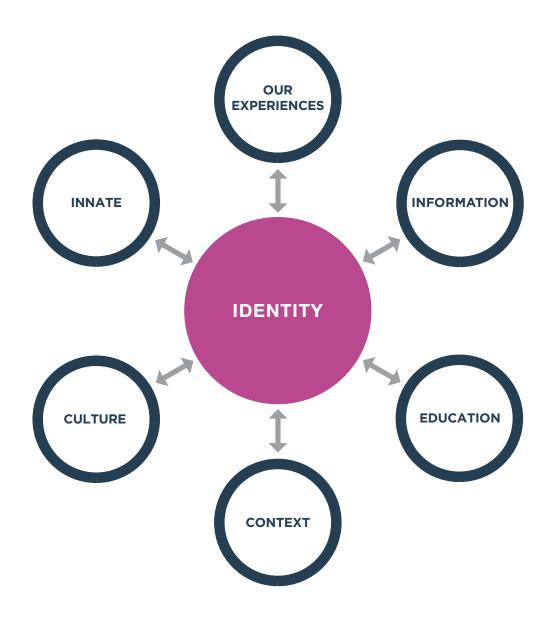












Individually:

1. Complete 10 "I am..." statements about who you are.

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- 2. Put an × next to the identifiers that can make you biased toward others.

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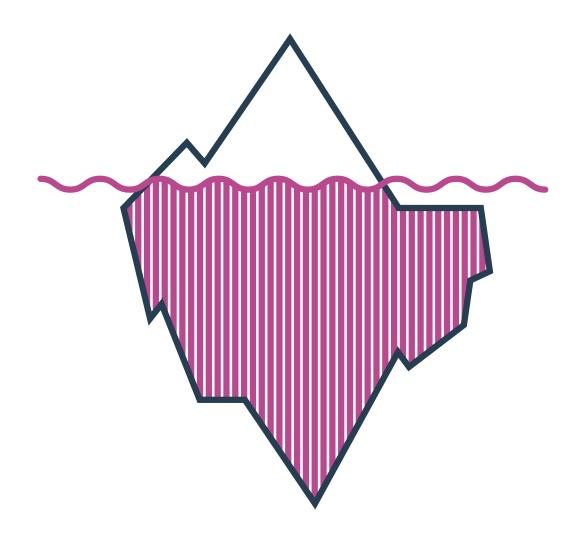
Stand and Form Small Groups

Take turns discussing what you learned about the connection between your identity and bias.

How does identity relate to bias?

Above the Water

Age, Race, Gender, Culture, Physical Ability

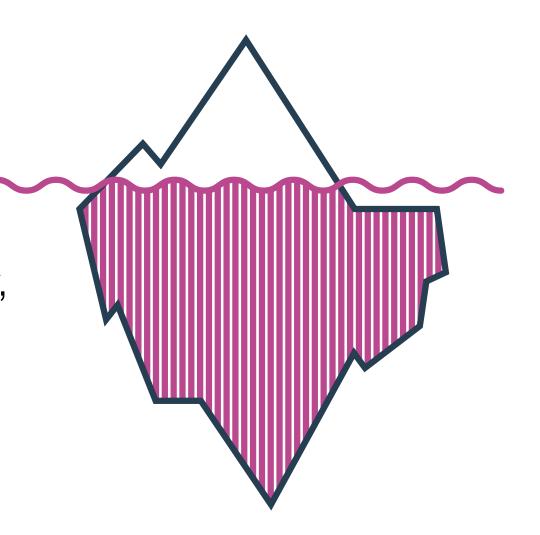


Above the Water

Age, Race, Gender, Culture, Physical Ability

Below the Water

Education, Religion, Skills, Family, Personality, Experience, Wealth



"We think we see the world as it is, when in fact we see the world the way we are."

STEPHEN R. COVEY

AUDIO: UX RESEARCH

BREAK

VIDEO: THE BRAIN AND BIAS

VIDEO: THE BRAIN AND BIAS

What triggers bias in the brain?

How can neuroplasticity help you mitigate bias? You're faced with around **11 million** pieces of information at any given moment. The brain can only process about **40 of those bits** of information, so it creates shortcuts and uses past knowledge to make assumptions.

TOR NØRRETRANDERS, AUTHOR, THE USER ILLUSION.

Three Bias Traps



INFORMATION OVERLOAD

We are bombarded by information that our brains automatically filter. Some of the information we filter out is actually useful and important.

Three Bias Traps



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FEELINGS OVER FACTS

When we have strong feelings about something, we tend to be driven by our beliefs rather than by facts. Our impulses and beliefs can override our logic and thinking processes.

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When we have strong feelings about something, we tend to be driven by our beliefs rather than by facts. Our impulses and beliefs can override our logic and thinking processes.



NEED FOR SPEED

We take shortcuts to act quickly. Often these time-savers are based on bias and can be simplistic, self-centered, and even counterproductive.

Information Overload: Common Biases

CONFIRMATION BIAS

We tend to seek out information that supports our existing beliefs.



Information Overload: Common Biases

CONFIRMATION BIAS

We tend to seek out information that supports our existing beliefs.

ANCHORING BIAS

We tend to rely on the first piece of information we see.



Feelings Over Facts: Common Biases

IN-GROUP BIAS

We tend to favor people we like and who are like us, while excluding and judging those who are different.



Feelings Over Facts: Common Biases

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We tend to favor people we like and who are like us, while excluding and judging those who are different.

NEGATIVITY BIAS

We are more powerfully influenced by negative experiences than positive or neutral experiences.



Need for Speed: Common Biases

ATTRIBUTION BIAS

We judge others on their actions, but we judge ourselves based on our intent.



Need for Speed: Common Biases

ATTRIBUTION BIAS

We judge others on their actions, but we judge ourselves based on our intent.

SUNK-COST BIAS

We tend to continue things because we've invested time, money, or resources into them.



How do the common biases show up in your life?

In Small Groups:

- Review the scenario.
- What bias(es) might be at play?

AUDIO: BLIND AUDITIONS

IDENTIFY BIAS: SUMMARY

IDENTIFY BIAS

BIAS TRAP: INFORMATION OVERLOAD

We are bombarded by information that our brains automatically filter. Some of the information we filter out is actually useful and important.

EXAMPLE BIASES:

Confirmation Bias

We tend to seek information that supports our existing beliefs.

Getting news from a single source.

Anchoring Bias

We tend to rely on the first piece of information we see.

Misdiagnosing an illness by paying too much attention to the first symptom identified.

IDENTIFY BIAS

BIAS TRAP: FEELINGS OVER FACTS

When we have strong feelings about something, we tend to be driven by our beliefs rather than by facts. Our impulses and beliefs can override our logic and thinking processes.

EXAMPLE BIASES:

In-Group Bias

We tend to favor people we like and who are like us, while excluding and judging those who are different.

While considering candidates, hiring the candidate who shares your background.

Negativity Bias

We are more powerfully influenced by negative experiences than positive or neutral experiences. Remembering a bad customer experience instead of the good or neutral ones.

IDENTIFY BIAS

BIAS TRAP: NEED FOR SPEED

We take shortcuts to act quickly. Often these time-savers are based on bias and can be simplistic, self-centered, and even counterproductive.

EXAMPLE BIASES:

Attribution Bias

We judge others on their actions, but we judge ourselves based on our intent. Thinking another person is ineffective

because they made a mistake.

Sunk-Cost Bias

We tend to continue things because we've invested time, money, or resources into them.

Keeping something you don't need, just because you spent money on it.

Addressing Bias Action Plan

Individually:

- Turn to page 56.
- Choose one everyday situation at work where you want to explore and address bias.

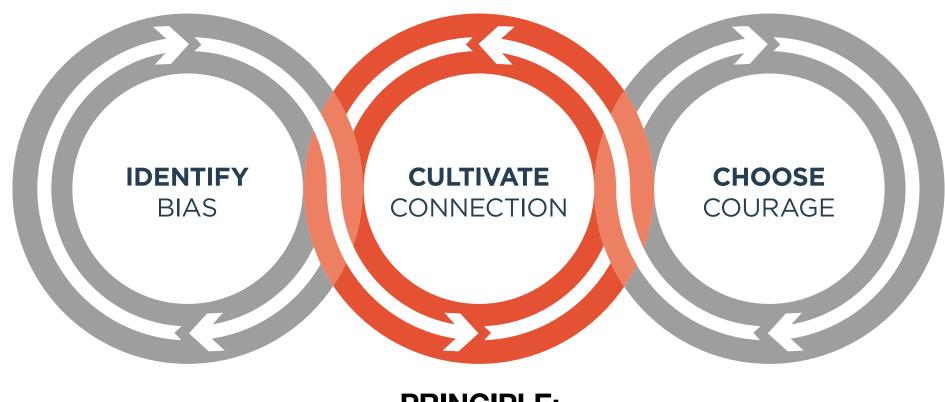
Addressing Bias Action Plan

Individually:

- Complete the action plan for Identify Bias:
 - Review Practice Cards 2–4. Choose one bias trap you want to work on.
 - How can you notice and address this bias trap in your day-to-day life?



CULTIVATE CONNECTION



PRINCIPLE:

Openness

Cultivate Connection: Roadmap

1. Increase empathy and curiosity.

Cultivate Connection: Roadmap

- 1. Increase empathy and curiosity.
- 2. Broaden and deepen networks.

FRAME

If I understand my biases, I can fix them on my own.

FRAME

If I understand my biases, I can fix them on my own.

REFRAME

Only when I cultivate meaningful connections can I see past bias and value the people around me.

VIDEO: ALL OF US

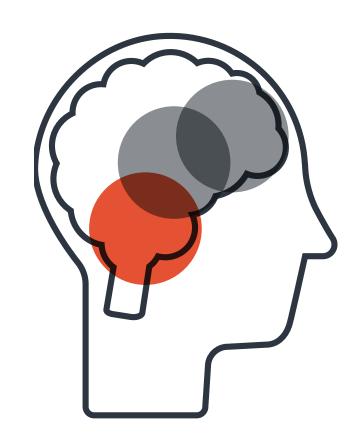


What resonated with you as you watched the video?

What emotions did you experience?

PRIMITIVE

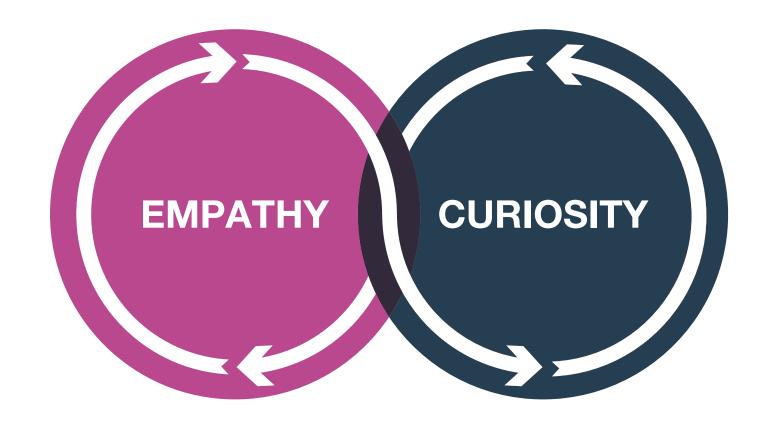
- Survival
- Heart rate
- Breathing
- Fight, flight, or freeze



AUDIO: INTERVIEW STORY

When we think, "I am like you," then we say, "I like you."

How do we cultivate connection?

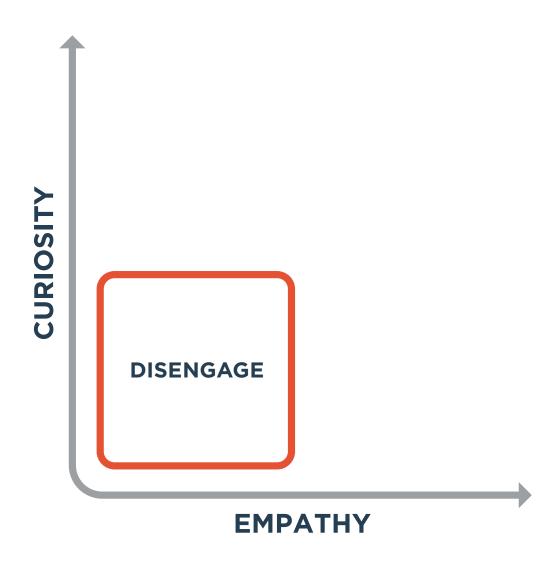


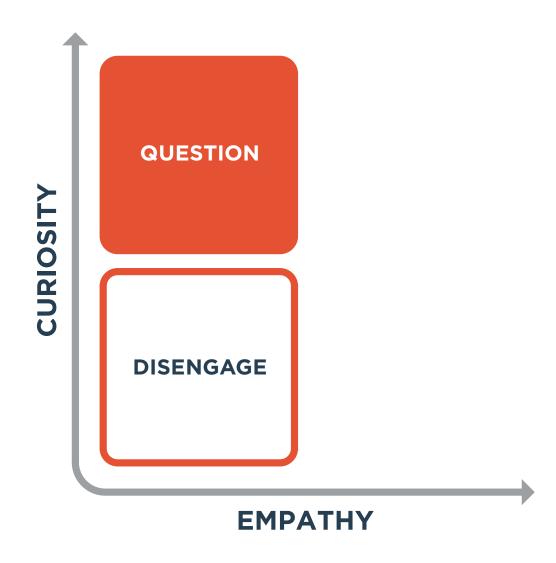
Empathy is...

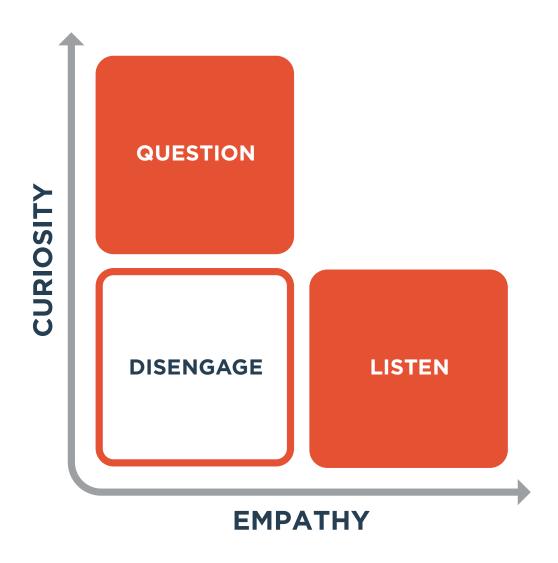
The ability to understand another person's experience, feelings, and emotions.

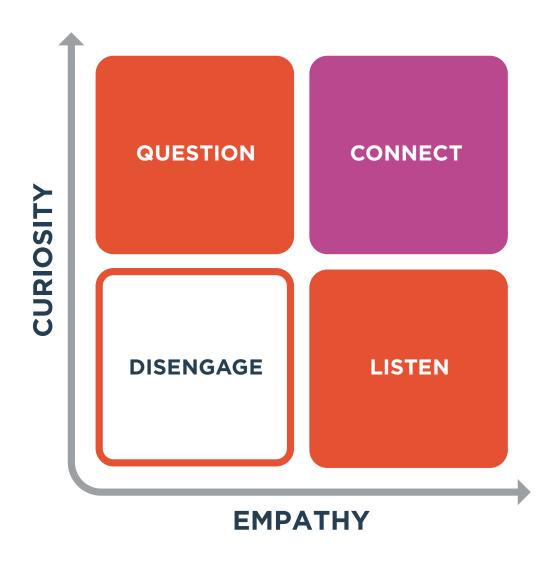
Curiosity is...

The desire to learn more about someone or something.









Exploring Empathy and Curiosity

In Small Groups:

1. Take turns choosing a card and following the directions on the card.

2. Observers:

- Watch and listen to the person with the card.
- "Act It Out" cards: Note physical and verbal clues that indicate how the person feels.
- "What Do You Think?" cards: What does the person with the card value? What motivates them? How do you know?

What made it easy or hard to practice **empathy**?

What made it easy or hard to practice **curiosity**?

CULTIVATE CONNECTION

5

PRACTICE EMPATHY AND CURIOSITY

Empathy is...

The ability to understand another person's experiences, feelings, and emotions. The key is to put yourself in the other person's shoes.

Curiosity is...

The desire to learn more about someone or something. The key is to fall in love with questions rather than answers.



Together, empathy and curiosity help us cultivate connection and be more openminded so we can recognize and address any biases in our thinking.

CULTIVATE CONNECTION

PRACTICE EMPATHY **AND CURIOSITY**

Tips to increase empathy and curiosity.

Have Empathy

- Position yourself physically at the same level.
- Be fully present as you listen.
- Restate words and identify feelings to show you understand.
- Withhold judgment.

Be Curious

- What am I thinking or feeling?
- What are they thinking or feeling?
- What biases are surfacing, both positive and negative?

Build a Connection

- What do we both care about?
- How am I like this person?
- What do I respect or like about this person?

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LUNCH

Cultivate Meaningful Connections

- Start safe:
 - Find common ground and build on it.

Cultivate Meaningful Connections

- Start safe:
 - Find common ground and build on it.
- Dive deeper:
 - Create more meaningful connections by asking deeper questions.

CULTIVATE CONNECTION

CULTIVATE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS: START SAFE

To connect with someone for the first time. start safe. Use the questions below to get started. (Use the questions on the back of this card to go deeper.)

- What are you working on?
- What's the best thing that's happened to you today?
- What did you do before you came to this job? What did you like most about it?
- What are you good at?
- What is your favorite place?
- What do you do to get rid of stress? What do you like most about that?
- What are you interested in that most people haven't heard of?

CULTIVATE CONNECTION

CULTIVATE MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS: DIVE DEEPER

Once an initial connection is made, use some of these questions to enrich it. (Use the front of this card to make an initial connection.)

- What is your next adventure?
- What are some things you've had to unlearn?
- What small gesture from a stranger made a big impact on you?
- What is the most challenging thing you do on a regular basis?
- What do you do to make the world a better place?
- What opportunities do you have for growth and development?
- What is something you've been meaning to try?
- What is something everyone should do at least once?

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In Pairs, Go on a "Walk and Talk"

- 1. Use Practice Card 5 to practice empathy and curiosity.
- 2. Use Practice Card 6 to cultivate meaningful connections.

What did you learn about the other person?

How are you like this person?

AUDIO: NETWORK AUDIT

Individually:

1. List 10 people from your professional network that you choose to interact with.

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- 1. List 10 people from your professional network that you choose to interact with.
- 2. Count the number of people who are the same as and different from you in the categories listed.

Individually:

- 1. List 10 people from your professional network that you choose to interact with.
- 2. Count the number of people who are the same as and different from you in the categories listed.
- 3. What do you notice about who you choose to connect with?
- 4. How does who you connect with affect your influence?



CULTIVATE CONNECTION: SUMMARY

Addressing Bias Action Plan

Individually:

- 1. Turn to page 56.
- 2. Complete the action plan for Cultivate Connection:
 - How will you cultivate meaningful connections so you can see past bias and value the people around you?

BREAK



CHOOSE COURAGE



PRINCIPLE:

Growth

Choose Courage: Roadmap

1. Understand the nature of courage.

Choose Courage: Roadmap

- 1. Understand the nature of courage.
- 2. Act with courage to address biases that:
 - Limit me.
 - Limit others.
 - Limit my organization.

FRAME

If I confront bias, it will just create more division.

FRAME

If I confront bias, it will just create more division.

REFRAME

When I effectively confront bias, I create a space where we are all valued and able to contribute our best.

Individually:

What does courage mean to you?

Individually:

What does courage mean to you?

Share your definitions of courage and the quotes that resonated for you.

Courage is...

The mental or moral strength to strive and persevere in the face of uncertainty, fear, or difficulty.

Effective courage is both careful and bold.

CHOOSE COURAGE

COURAGE THAT DRIVES CHANGE: CAREFUL COURAGE

Effective courage is both careful and bold. Careful courage is especially valuable when there's high risk. Use these ideas to practice careful courage when addressing bias.

Use Softening Statements

- "What I'm hearing you say is..."
- "It seems like..."
- "When you said ____, what did you mean?"

Create a Safe Place

- Reflect before speaking.
- Give yourself and others time. "Let's take a break now and come back later."
- Apologize when you need to.
- Have a one-on-one discussion.
- Avoid shaming.
- Assume good intent.

CHOOSE COURAGE

COURAGE THAT DRIVES CHANGE: BOLD COURAGE

Effective courage is both careful and bold. Bold courage makes the case for an immediate need to change. Use these ideas to practice bold courage when addressing bias.

Be Direct

- Ask for what you want.
- Call things what they are.
- Share the evidence and the impact.

Challenge the Status Quo

- Be willing to say no.
- Point out problems.
- · Offer solutions.

Include Others

- Call other people into the conversation.
- Ask for feedback: "What can we do to make this right?"
- Create opportunities.

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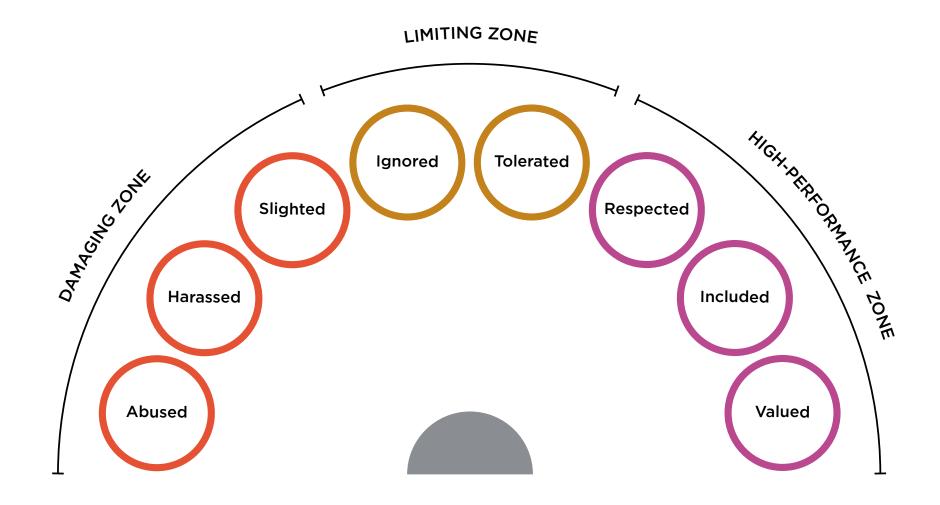
What are the strengths and limitations of having careful courage?

What are the strengths and limitations of having **bold** courage?

VIDEO: COURAGE IN ACTION

VIDEO: COURAGE IN ACTION

Who showed courage in the story?



NOTICE BIAS HAPPENING.

PAUSE: QUESTION IT

SEEK TO UNDERSTAND

CHECK ASSUMPTIONS

LEARN

COURAGE TO COPE

DEAL WITH BIAS.

PRIORITIZE SELF-CARE

PROACTIVELY CHOOSE A RESPONSE

GET A COACH OR MENTOR

SHARE YOUR STORY

COURAGE TO ALLY

HELP OTHERS WITH BIAS.

TEAM UP WITH OTHERS

OFFER SUPPORT

BE A COACH OR MENTOR

AMPLIFY OTHERS' VOICES

COURAGE TO ADVOCATE

PROACTIVELY ADDRESS BIAS.

ENACT GROUP STRATEGIES

WRITE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE

ORGANIZE NETWORKS

NOTICE BIAS HAPPENING.

PAUSE: QUESTION IT

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COURAGE TO ADVOCATE

PROACTIVELY ADDRESS BIAS.

ENACT GROUP STRATEGIES

WRITE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE

ORGANIZE NETWORKS

In Small Groups:

- 1. Review pages 52-53.
- 2. Pick a skill.
- 3. Turn to the Courage Skill Builder worksheet (see pages 60–75) for your chosen skill and follow the instructions.

CHOOSE COURAGE

Courage to Ally

AMPLIFY OTHERS' VOICES

Read the definition below.

Amplifying others' voices helps ensure that people who were previously ignored get heard. When someone who is sometimes ignored makes a point in meetings, others can repeat it to give credit to the originator. Amplifying others' voices ensures that everone is heard.

Spend 5 minutes to explore and discuss this strength using the following prompt:

Think of a time when you felt unheard. Was there someone who spoke up for you and drew attention to your idea? If so, how did it feel?

Review the tips below. Discuss how they can help you identify and deal with bias.

Notice trends in meetings and decisions. Is anyone being left out? If someone is left out, reinforce their ideas and amplify their voice.

Note any commitments:

Application Example

Women in a government organization noticed their contributions weren't being heard in critical meetings. They committed to amplify each others' voices.

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CHOOSE COURAGE

8

COURAGE TO IDENTIFY

Bias happens at the speed of thought. When we have the courage to identify bias in ourselves and others, we can begin to address the impact it has.

Be courageous and continue to explore the impact of bias for you, for others, and for your organization.

Pause: Question It

Seek to Understand

Check Assumptions

Learn

CHOOSE COURAGE

COURAGE TO COPE

9

Being the subject of negative bias can take a toll on well-being. Coping with the effects of bias looks different in every situation. It could be stepping away, choosing a response beforehand, finding a coach, or even sharing your experience with others.

Prioritize Self-Care

Proactively Choose a Response

Get a Coach or Mentor

Share Your Story

CHOOSE COURAGE

COURAGE TO ALLY

10

Whether you are the subject of bias or not, being an ally can bring about change. Teaming up with others to explore bias can make a significant impact. Offering support, mentoring, or helping another to be heard are powerful ways to address bias.

Team Up With Others

Offer Support

Be a Coach or Mentor

Amplify Others' Voices

CHOOSE COURAGE

COURAGE TO ADVOCATE

As an advocate, you take proactive steps

to address bias. Advocates educate others and can inspire more people to take action. Building networks to bring people together can have a great impact.

Enact Group Strategies

Write About Your Experience

Organize Networks

Speak Up

In Small Groups:

- Review the scenario.
- What bias(es) might be at play?
- What would you do to address bias productively in this situation?

NOTICE BIAS HAPPENING.

PAUSE: QUESTION IT

SEEK TO UNDERSTAND

CHECK ASSUMPTIONS

LEARN

COURAGE TO COPE

DEAL WITH BIAS.

PRIORITIZE SELF-CARE

PROACTIVELY CHOOSE A RESPONSE

GET A COACH OR MENTOR

SHARE YOUR STORY

COURAGE TO ALLY

HELP OTHERS WITH BIAS.

TEAM UP WITH OTHERS

OFFER SUPPORT

BE A COACH OR MENTOR

AMPLIFY OTHERS' VOICES

COURAGE TO ADVOCATE

PROACTIVELY ADDRESS BIAS.

ENACT GROUP STRATEGIES

WRITE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCE

ORGANIZE NETWORKS

CHOOSE COURAGE: SUMMARY



Addressing Bias Action Plan

Individually:

- 1. Turn to page 56.
- 2. Complete the section on Choose Courage:
 - Review Practice Cards 8–11. Choose one skill you want to work on.
 - How will you apply that skill to create a space where we all feel valued and able to contribute our best?

Addressing Bias Action Plan

- 3. Schedule regular check-ins with yourself to monitor your progress.
- 4. Choose someone to be your Accountability Partner.
 - The role of an Accountability Partner is to challenge you, support you, and hold you accountable for making progress.
- 5. Schedule a call with your Accountability Partner.
- 6. If you are a manager, what is one thing you can do to help your team understand and address bias?

Results Stories

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- Mentoring programs boost the representation of targeted groups in management by up to 24%.
- LGBTQ+ and ally employees at inclusive companies were 10% more likely to "go the extra mile" for company success.





UNCONSCIOUS BIAS

Understanding Bias to Unleash Potential™

