



Examining Your Assumptions

**A REFLECTION ACTIVITY DESIGNED
TO EXPLORE ASSUMPTIONS**

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Activity Instructions:

1. Advance the slides, considering the notes and instructions on each slide.
2. Pause (as needed) to reflect on the questions embedded in the slides.

Variation of this Activity:

Consider using this in a group setting as you view and discuss these slides with colleagues.

1. Show the first “close-up picture”... *ask colleagues to write down the words/phrases that come to mind when they see the picture.*
2. Show the “full picture”... *invite colleagues to discuss these questions with a partner:*
 - What assumptions did you make when you looked at the first picture?
 - How did you adjust your assumptions when looking at the second picture?
3. Repeat with remaining photos.
4. Reflect on the experience using questions like these...
 - Can you recall situations where you’ve made incorrect assumptions before you knew the whole story? What affect did that have on the situation?
 - What new insights do you now have about the assumptions you make?
 - What will you do differently as a result of this introduction to examining assumptions?



Write down
your response
to the photos
as they appear
on the next
slides.





What words or phrases come to mind when you see this picture?



Does seeing the whole picture change anything for you?



SO YOU KNOW...When US flags are no longer in good condition (old, worn, frayed and/or faded) the United States Flag Code, Title 4, Section 8ks has guidelines fore retiring and is by burning them. The National Flag Foundation provides the following guide for conducting a patriotic flag burning ceremony, which are often conducted by veterans or scouts, but can be handled by any individual. For more information: http://www.annin.com/resources_flag_retire.asp



What words or phrases come to mind when you see this picture?



Does seeing the whole picture change anything for you?



SO YOU KNOW...Oscar Leonard Carl Pistorius , South African sprint runner, was the first amputee to win an able-bodied world track medal when he became the first double leg amputee to compete in the 2012 Summer Olympics.



SO YOU KNOW...In 2014 Pistorius was found guilty of culpable homicide (in the death of his girlfriend) and sentenced to prison.



Does knowing more about something cause you to adjust your assumptions?

Consider
this...



An assumption “is something we take for granted or presuppose. Usually it is something we previously learned and do not question. It is part of our system of beliefs. We assume our beliefs to be true and use them to interpret the world about us.”

SOURCE: <http://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/critical-thinking-distinguishing-between-inferences-and-assumptions/484>



We humans naturally and regularly use our beliefs as assumptions and make inferences based on those assumptions.



An inference “is a step of the mind, an intellectual act by which one concludes that something is true in light of something else’s being true, or seeming to be true. Inferences can be accurate or inaccurate, logical or illogical, justified or unjustified.”

SOURCE: <http://www.criticalthinking.org/pages/critical-thinking-distinguishing-between-inferences-and-assumptions/484>



What words or
phrases come to
mind when you
see this picture?





Does seeing the whole picture change anything for you?



How might your assumptions be different than those of others?
NOTE: We assume our beliefs to be true and use them to interpret the world about us.



What words or phrases come to mind when you see this picture?



How do your impressions of this photo change when you see the whole picture?



Often we don't know what is "behind the scenes" in people's lives – especially that of children.

What words or phrases come to mind when you see this picture?





What mixed messages (if any) are there in this picture?

FYI: This photo was taken during the 2012 summer Olympics in London (posted at <http://idrottsforum.org/author/kjell/>)



REMEMBER: We make inferences based on our assumptions.
Those inferences can be accurate or inaccurate, logical or illogical, justified or unjustified.

Take a
few
minutes
to
reflect...



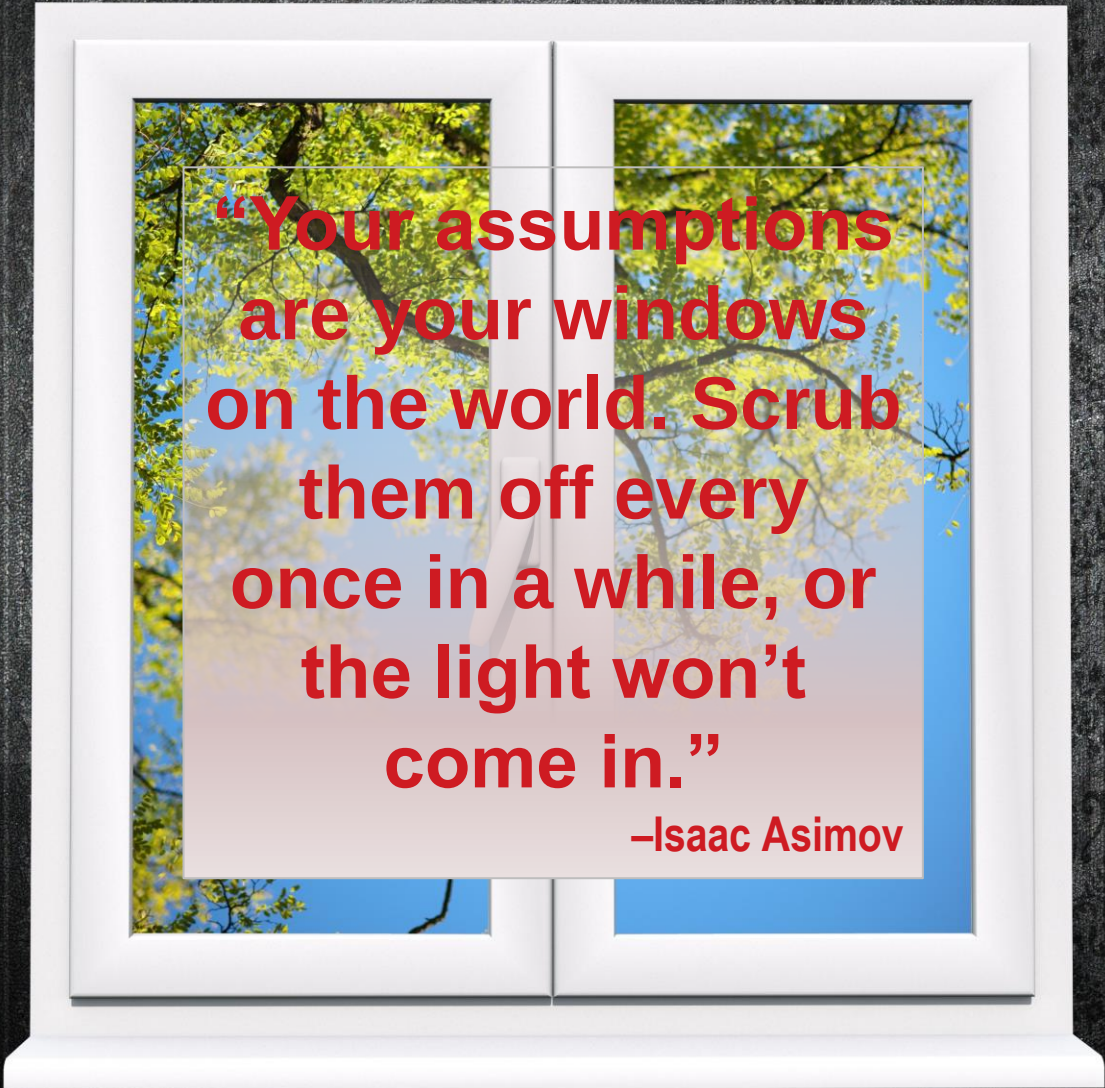
Can you recall situations where you've made incorrect assumptions before you knew the whole story? What affect did that have on the situation?



What new insights do you now have about the assumptions you make?

What will
you do
differently... as a result of this
introduction to
examining your
assumptions?





**“Your assumptions
are your windows
on the world. Scrub
them off every
once in a while, or
the light won’t
come in.”**

–Isaac Asimov



For more information:



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