

## It's all a matter of perspective?

Here's an opportunity to strengthen our ability to take different perspectives.

- Read a profile
- Step into their shoes; role-play this individual. Write down a few other pieces of information about who you are.
- Role-play their response to the image below. How does this image make you feel? What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image? What do you believe is happening?

### **Situation 1**

#### **Maria**

I am a single mother of 4 children living in the US. I feel like my days are full from morning until night. I work full-time and am happy with the care and support I've been able to provide for my children. Some times it's a challenge to meet the health needs of my family and I've been fortunate to always make ends meet.

Tell us more:

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#### **Richard**

I work as a bricklayer in Texas. I'm single; hoping some day I'll meet a woman I could ask to be my wife. I'm from a small town in Vermont; Texas feels like a different country.

Tell us more:

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#### **Aamir**

I'm from Pakistan. I am currently studying in Europe to be a Doctor; it is my father's wish. I really would like to be air force pilot.

Tell us more:

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**Role-play a possible response to this image for each individual. Answer the questions below:**



**Maria**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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**Richard**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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**Aamir**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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## Situation 2

### Joe

I work as a steward for an airline. I love my job because I get to travel all over the world. I'm rarely at home; I'm either up in a plane or visiting in a city far from home. I'm beginning to believe that home is where my luggage is.

Tell us more:

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### Sarah

I've recently retired. It's nice to be considering what to do with this next phase of my life. I'm thinking about moving down to Florida but I'm a bit concerned about the hurricanes. I have a brother who lives in Tampa he moved down there. We recently lost our parents to a fire; he's the only family I have left.

Tell us more:

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### Emmanuel

I live in a small fishing village in Africa. I love my family and my home. The furthest I've been from my villages is 30 km when I needed to bring my daughter to a doctor for some special medical attention needed from snakebite.

Tell us more:

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**Role-play a possible response to this image for each individual. Answer the questions below:**



**Joe**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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**Sarah**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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**Emmanuel**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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### Situation 3

#### Pierre

I was born in Paris now live in the South of France. I'm grateful to be away from all the noise of the city and the chaos of the world around us. I run a small bakery in my town; it keeps me quite busy. Sunday is my day off and I spend the day with my family.

Tell us more:

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#### Elizabeth

Born and raised in NYC. I love the city; I could sit on those subways for days and watch NY pass by. All the people, all the smells and noises – it's just marvelous. Things have been a bit different since September 11<sup>th</sup>.

Tell us more:

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#### Jeff

I'm 7. I love to play soccer. Someday I'm going to play in the world cup. My dad he's a pilot and travels all over the world; he used to be a pilot for the military. I miss him when he's gone and when he comes home we play soccer together.

Tell us more:

**Role-play a possible response to this image for each individual. Answer the questions below:**



**Pierre**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

**Elizabeth**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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**Jeff**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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## Situation 4

### Richard

I'm completing my Master studies in the field of computer design. I believe that computers can really facilitate our ability to resolve so many of the issues we struggle with. Our ability to think quicker and clearer are stimulated by technology.

Tell us more:

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### Manako

I can market just about anything. I love my job! I've worked with beverage companies, resorts, nurseries, and many commercial product companies. I'm really practical when it comes to the world; it's all about making a profit.

Tell us more:

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### Karen

My family moved from Korea when I was seven. I now have my own family and try adhering to many of the religious traditions my family has taught me. My husband and I help run the family business; I have three children and try to be home as much as possible for them.

Tell us more:

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**Role-play a possible response to this image for each individual. Answer the questions below:**



**Richard**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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**Manako**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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**Karen**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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## Situation 5

### Susan

I grew up in Iowa; my father had a farm and we raised horses. In the 60s it seemed like a very quiet place to be growing up. From what I saw on the television and heard on the radio the rest of the country seemed to be in chaos. When I went off to university in Chicago I wasn't sure what to expect. I still live in Chicago and it seems like a quiet place now compared to the rest of the world I see on television these days.

Tell us more:

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### Jodi

I've lived in North Carolina all my life; I can't imagine calling any place else home. My whole family still lives in the area; it makes for a busy holiday season. I work mornings in a bank and spend the afternoons with my children at home. I hope my children grow up and make North Carolina their home too.

Tell us more:

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### Renato

I live in New Mexico. My mother is Mexican and my father is French. I'm exploring what I'd like to study in college. I'm very interested in Cultural Anthropology and Chicano Studies. Hopefully I can focus on both these areas.

Tell us more:

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**Role-play a possible response to this image for each individual. Answer the questions below:**



**Susan**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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**Jodi**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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**Renato**

How does this image make you feel?

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What are the thoughts that come to you as you look at this image?

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What do you believe is happening?

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**Final Reflection –**

What did you notice as you took these different views?

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What did you begin to notice about your understanding of the image as you role-played each individual?

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Looking back at the images how easy is it hold multiple perspectives?

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**Some things to think about:**

- The impact of everyone’s life experiences on their perspective they bring to a situation
- We really don’t know someone else experience until we ask him or her; we need to be careful with stereotyping.
- Asking genuine questions from curiosity is the best way to step into someone’s shoes
- Images and situations become multi-dimensional with all the different perspectives.