

Stereotype Tool - Handout for students

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Step 1: Introduction of the tool

How does your teacher deal with talented students? Often teachers are not fully aware of their own views towards talent. This exercise, called Stereotype Tool, is meant to make teachers more aware of this. It was developed by a group of European teachers, students and researchers.

The Tool consists of a set of stereotypes of teachers. These stereotypes are exaggerated descriptions of how teachers act in class. Having a discussion about these stereotypes could help teachers realize how they view talent.

We now ask your help. Please think about the teacher, who has given you this assignment and note to what extent he/she resembles the following 11 stereotypes. Keep in mind that your teacher can resemble more than one stereotype.

Step 2: Fill in the survey

Your teacher will provide you with a survey, either in print or electronically. The survey is anonymous, but your teacher will be able to see the results as they come in. Your teacher has asked for your participation in order to improve his/her teaching.

Step 3: classroom discussion about the results

The survey is meant as a discussion starter, so now it is time to discuss!

Your teacher will start discussing the scores and may ask questions about his/her own role, or introduce a general discussion.

See descriptions of the 11 stereotypes on the next page

Descriptions of stereotypes

The set includes eleven stereotypes of teachers in relation to talent:

1. Course concentrator
This teacher is focused on the content of his/her course, and thinks all students should be able to get through the course by working in a focused way.
2. Dreaming discoverer
This teacher is focused on letting students explore new things outside their comfort zone, in order to find new talents they might not have thought about before.
3. Equality emphasize
This teacher is focused on equality between students. Everyone should have the same opportunities.
4. Excellence exceptionalist
This teacher is focused on students who have performed excellent in their studies or in other domains such as sports or arts, and is willing to make exceptions for them.
5. Formality focuser
This teacher is focused on making sure that governmental and institutional rules are met while delivering the course.
6. Freedom fighter
This teacher is focused on letting students experience as much freedom as possible and encourages them to explore new pathways.
7. Groupwork guru
This teacher is focused on excellence in group work, with each student finding the role which suits his/her talents best in relation to the task that lies ahead.
8. Hierarchy hacker
This teacher is focused on breaking up traditional student-teacher hierarchy and treats students as fellow researchers or colleagues.
9. Negative neglecter
This teacher has a negative and neglecting attitude towards teaching in general and is not really paying attention to the students. In research universities this would be an 'I-only-care-about-my-research-and-not-about-your-education' teacher.
10. Practice connector
This teacher is focused on preparing students for 'the real world', always relating teaching to practice.
11. Problem provider
This teacher is focused on stimulating complex thoughts, by providing students with difficult problems to solve.