

Contextual influence



Module IV Interpersonal skills Communicate with others Non verbal

Activity: Contextual influence

- **Short Description:** This very short exercise is aimed helping teachers to demonstrate to students how their perception of a same element can differ according to external / contextual elements.
- **Methodology:** demo
- **Duration:** 5 minutes
- **Difficulty (high - medium - low):** low
- **Individual / Team:** Classroom should be divided into 2 groups
- **Classroom / House:** This activity is to be developed in the classroom
- **What do we need to do this activity?** (Indicate what resources we need to be able to carry out the proposed activity)
 - **Hardware:** non
 - **Software:** none
 - **Other resources:** Printed pictures from annex

Description

- **Text description:**

In this activity, the teacher will divide the classroom into 2 groups. To the first group, he will present picture n°1, and ask them to describe the women, and age. To the second group, he will do the same with image n°2.



Then, the teachers will ask all the students of the class to look at image nº3 and will ask them to describe the women. The perception of the two groups will probably differ. Typically, half of the room has their perception “seeded” with the illustration of the old women, while the other half with the young lady. When the picture nº3 is revealed, arguments will start over whether the picture represents a young or old woman. This experiment demonstrates how our point of view is biased, and how this affect the way we interact with other people. Dialogue can become tense and this can affect negatively our communication with others. This is why the teacher should let students argue for some time before any intervention. Finally, he will show them that both visions are correct, and call to their flexibility of mind.

- **Illustration:**



<https://unsplash.com/photos/GDLIHUYN360>



<https://unsplash.com/photos/EntovEnMZl4>

Instructions

1. STEP 1 – Split the classroom into 2 groups
2. STEP 2 – Show picture nº1 to group 1 and picture nº2 to group 2
3. STEP 3 – Bring all students together, and show them picture nº3
4. STEP 4 – Ask them about what they see
5. STEP 5 – Debate
6. STEP 6 – Explain them how their perception of a same picture was biased

Expected outcomes

- Understand how contextual elements influence our perception of things
- Understand other points of view
- Develop empathy
- Increase dialogue skills

This activity can be used in other (module, course, topic, lesson):

- **Module IV, Interpersonal Skills – understanding others – emotional intelligence, and conversation**



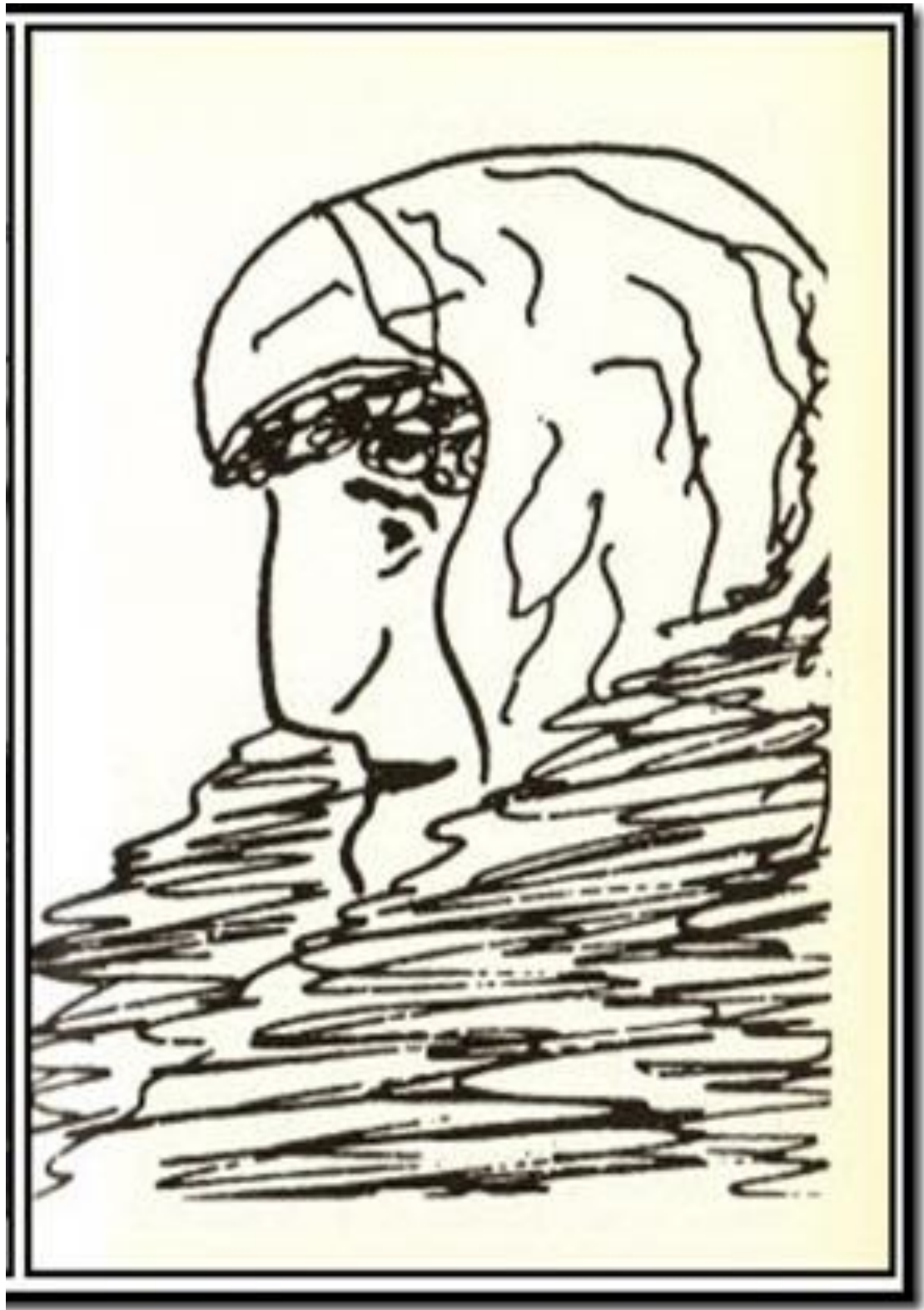
ENTRECOMP (Competences developed): Vision – Learning through experience

ANNEX:

Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Illustrations of a paradox

