Module IV.1. Soft skills Library

Interpersonal Skills Course

Topic 4. Communicate with others

Activity T4.L3.1. Contextual Influence

Contextual Influence

This very short exercise is aimed to help teachers to demonstrate to students how their perception of the 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

Contextual Influence

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 n°3 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 n°3 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 affects 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.

Contextual Influence

⚠ Find in the activity factsheet the illustrations for doing this exercise.

INSTRUCTIONS:

STEP 1 – Split the classroom into 2 groups

STEP 2 – Show picture n°1 to group 1 and picture n°2 to group 2

STEP 3 – Bring all students together, and show them picture n°3
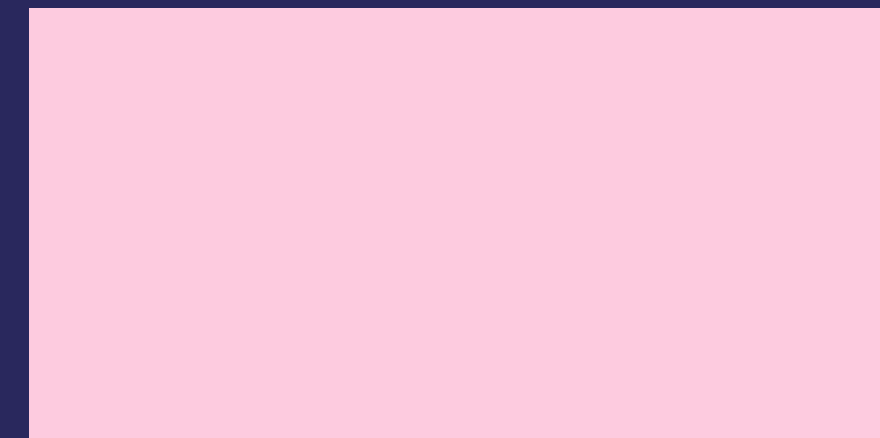
STEP 4 – Ask them about what they see

STEP 5 – Debate

STEP 6 - Explain to them how their perception of the same picture was based.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

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

ENTRECOMP (COMPETENCIES DEVELOPED):

- Learning through experience
- Vision