

BLM 10 – *Prejudice, Discrimination, and Stereotypes*

Prejudice – a certain attitude, usually negative, toward a particular group or member of that group. Prejudice is usually toward strangers, who may have a certain appearance. The word comes from Latin words meaning prejudge.

Prejudice happens whenever we prejudge others because of race, religion, age, gender, physical size or appearance, occupation, social class, sexual orientation etc. We decide how we feel about them before we know them.

Discrimination – different, usually unfair, treatment of a group or member of that group, because of prejudiced feelings about them. The word comes from the Latin word for “divide.”

Discrimination happens whenever we divide or separate people into groups (physically or in our minds) and treat one group unfairly or unequally because of our prejudices about their ethnicity, religion, age, gender, physical size or appearance, occupation, social class, sexual orientation etc..

Stereotypes – the idea or belief that all members of a certain group are very similar, leaving no room for individual differences. Stereotypes are standardized and simplified conceptions of groups based on some prior assumptions. The word comes from the Greek words (stereos), "firm, solid" and (typos), "impression", hence "solid impression".

Stereotyping occurs whenever we lump people into a common category and do not see their individuality. Stereotyping is when we have generalized beliefs about a person or persons based on their age, ethnicity, religion, gender, etc., and those categories have generalized beliefs. An example would be, “Old men with hats are the worst Sunday drivers.”