Activity 3.3

How I See It

Objectives:

• Highlight that everyone believes reality is real—things are the way they are—but the truth is that one person’s perception of an event or idea might not be the same as someone else’s perception of that same event or idea. Two people can look at the same thing, like the same example of behavior, and see two entirely different things.

• Understand that most migratory students come from a different culture and have different life experiences than the MEP service provider working with them. This activity helps participants recognize that any behavior has at least two interpretations. First, what the person doing the action thinks they are expressing; and second, the meaning that a person who observes the action gives to it.

• Participants will be able to articulate how their personal cultural perspectives affect their interpretations of situations they encounter.

Steps:

1. Distribute one How I See It worksheet per participant.
2. Read the first behavior out loud to the group and have participants write their immediate first response to or interpretation of the behavior.
3. Continue to read the behaviors out loud and have participants write their individual responses to each behavior or have them complete their responses on their own.
4. If time allows, have participants share their responses so all can see the variations in responses.

(Adapted from Culture Matters: The Peace Corps Cross-Cultural Workbook)
HANDOUT for Activity 3.3

Worksheet: How I See It

Read the description of the ten behaviors listed and write down your immediate response to or interpretation of that behavior. Do not think about it too much—there are no “right answers”, simply those based on your culture and life experiences.

*Example:* A person comes does not answer your phone calls.
Your interpretation: This person is rude and is doing it on purpose.

1. Mario states he does not want to get out of bed.
Your interpretation: ________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________.

2. Alice speaks on the phone at a rapid pace.
Your interpretation: ________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________.

3. Chandra is not taking showers.
Your interpretation: ________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________.

4. Elizabeth is no longer painting, an activity she has always enjoyed.
Your interpretation: ________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________.

5. Marvine agrees to a date and time for class and but does not open the door.
Your interpretation: ________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________.

6. Your student, Armandine, cannot concentrate on the lesson and seems a million miles away.
Your interpretation: ________________________________________________
__________________________________________________________________.
CULTURAL RESPONSIVENESS ACTIVITIES

7. Your student, Ricardo, has lost a lot of weight since you saw him last. You ask if he is okay and he says he has not been eating much. Your interpretation: _____________________________________________________  

8. While you are doing a lesson with your student Hari, she gets very irritated when her baby cries. Your interpretation: _____________________________________________________  

9. Leti tells you that she is giving away all of her valuables. Your interpretation: _____________________________________________________  

10. Jorge tells you that he lies awake at night thinking and he cannot relax enough to go to sleep. Your interpretation: _____________________________________________________  