

## Understanding Up / Stereotyping Down

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### Understanding Other People's Beliefs

This is an exercise in understanding for students everywhere.

It's easier to understand other people's beliefs when we understand why they have those beliefs. One way to understand different beliefs is to learn about other people's daily activities.

No names so everyone feels safe giving their responses.

Once a day for a week, students could list their activities for the previous 24 hours.

Sleeping

Eating lunch

Studying

Playing sports

Working on the farm

Working in parents' business

Taking care of younger siblings

Partying

Listening to / making music

Watching TV

Cooking

Cleaning

Hunting

Writing

Etc.

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### More Understanding

Municipality type: city / town / village / compound / farm, etc.

Season

Age

Gender

Number of people in household

Religion

Life hopes

Country (when connecting with students in other parts of the world)

Anything else students would find interesting

Students could contact other schools around the state and the country, then branch out internationally.

Students might have to get creative with students in countries with little or spotty Internet access.

Once they start getting the lists from other states and countries, they could look for patterns in similarities and differences.

Apps would make it easy for most American students as well as students in many other countries. I assume at least some of students could design computer apps for everything.

With all approaches to other schools, students should make it clear that they want understanding, not feelings of superiority.

Students who recognize similarities will know where to find opportunities in their adult careers.