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## *Unit 3:7 The Stereotype Project: Truth Versus Perception*

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### **Problem statement:**

To what extent do student perceptions of other student groups correlate with actual group characteristics?

### **Description of project:**

In teams, you will choose a student group from the class list to research and form a hypothesis that solves the problem statement. Then, you will submit a proposal that outlines how your team will use student surveys to solve the problem statement. The proposal will also detail which part of the project each individual team member will complete. After your proposal has been approved, you will conduct your research and use a spreadsheet to calculate your results. You will also conduct additional research from online and print sources on your topic. Finally, you will present your findings in the form of a one-page magazine article that includes charts/graphs and at least one additional graphic. You will be provided with some class time for team meetings; you will also be provided with a message board to conduct team meetings outside of class. Each member will receive one individual grade for his or her part of the project, and one team grade for the finished product.

*Unit 3:7 The Stereotype Project*

**Procedure:**

- Step one: As a team, choose a student group to research.
- Step two: As a team, form a hypothesis that states the results you expect to find from your research.
- Step three: Complete the team roster below and provide each team member with a copy.
- Step four: Complete the attached proposal.
- Step five: Conduct your research
- Step six: Calculate your results
- Step seven: Conduct outside research
- Step eight: Publish your findings in the form of a magazine article

Team Roster	
Name	Gaggle Email Address

### *Unit 3:7 The Stereotype Project*

#### **Description of Project Components**

##### **Proposal:** (one individual test grade)

The proposal must give a detailed description of how your team plans to solve the problem statement. The proposal will include your hypothesis, team roster and assignments, and a description of each step of the research project. Proposals must be typed, written in complete sentences, and a minimum of 500 words. Proposals may require revising before they are accepted. Changes can and should be made to the research process as necessary, but team members must have changes approved by the teacher before proceeding.

##### **Student Perceptions Survey:** (one individual test grade)

Before creating the student survey, your team must gather information about common stereotypes of your research subject. A Gaggle Net discussion board has been set up for each student group. You may also use other methods for generating stereotypes. Once you have decided on the stereotypes you wish to research, you must create a survey that measures those stereotypes in quantitative terms. For example, if you are researching the student group of “cheerleaders,” and your group believes that cheerleaders are stereotyped as overly interested in hair and make-up, a survey question might ask students the following: “How many long does the typical cheerleader spend on her hair every morning before school?” All survey questions must be school appropriate. Your intended audience includes students, parents, teachers and administrators. You must have a total of ten survey questions total, and each question must have four answer choices. The Student Perceptions Survey will be used to measure actual group characteristics by eliminating answer choices and eliciting responses from members of the student group.

### *Unit 3:7 The Stereotype Project*

**Calculating results/generating graph or chart:** (one individual test grade)

Survey results must be calculated using a spreadsheet, and the results analyzed to determine the validity of the team's initial hypothesis. From the spreadsheet, charts or graphs must be generated for use in magazine article.

**Outside research:** (one individual test grade)

Additional research must be conducted using online and/or print sources to support and enhance your findings. As a team, you will determine the focus that your outside research takes. For example, if your student group is "Band Members," then you might want to research the connection between musical ability and academic achievement. The team member responsible for outside research must also locate appropriate graphics for the team to use in the final product.

**Magazine article:** (one individual test grade)

The results of your research will be presented in the form of a one-page magazine article that includes charts/graphs and at least one additional graphic. The article should answer the problem statement and explore the implications of your findings. Articles must be typed and follow the formatting instructions.

Note: It is recommended that all team members participate in the administration of student surveys.