



Cultural Sensitivity in Teaching

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Why talk about cultural sensitivity in teaching?

*“...actively promotes an **environment of inclusiveness and mutual respect** within its doors as well as in the broader community. Its commitment to **celebrating individual differences** enhances its powerful, **thought-provoking learning environment.**”*



Why talk about cultural sensitivity in teaching?

- the classroom environment significantly impacts students' engagement, learning, knowledge retention and application
- students simply do not learn as well in environments that they perceive as unwelcoming and uncomfortable
- we must take active steps to create learning spaces that reflect cultural awareness and sensitivity



Establishing Effective Learning Environments

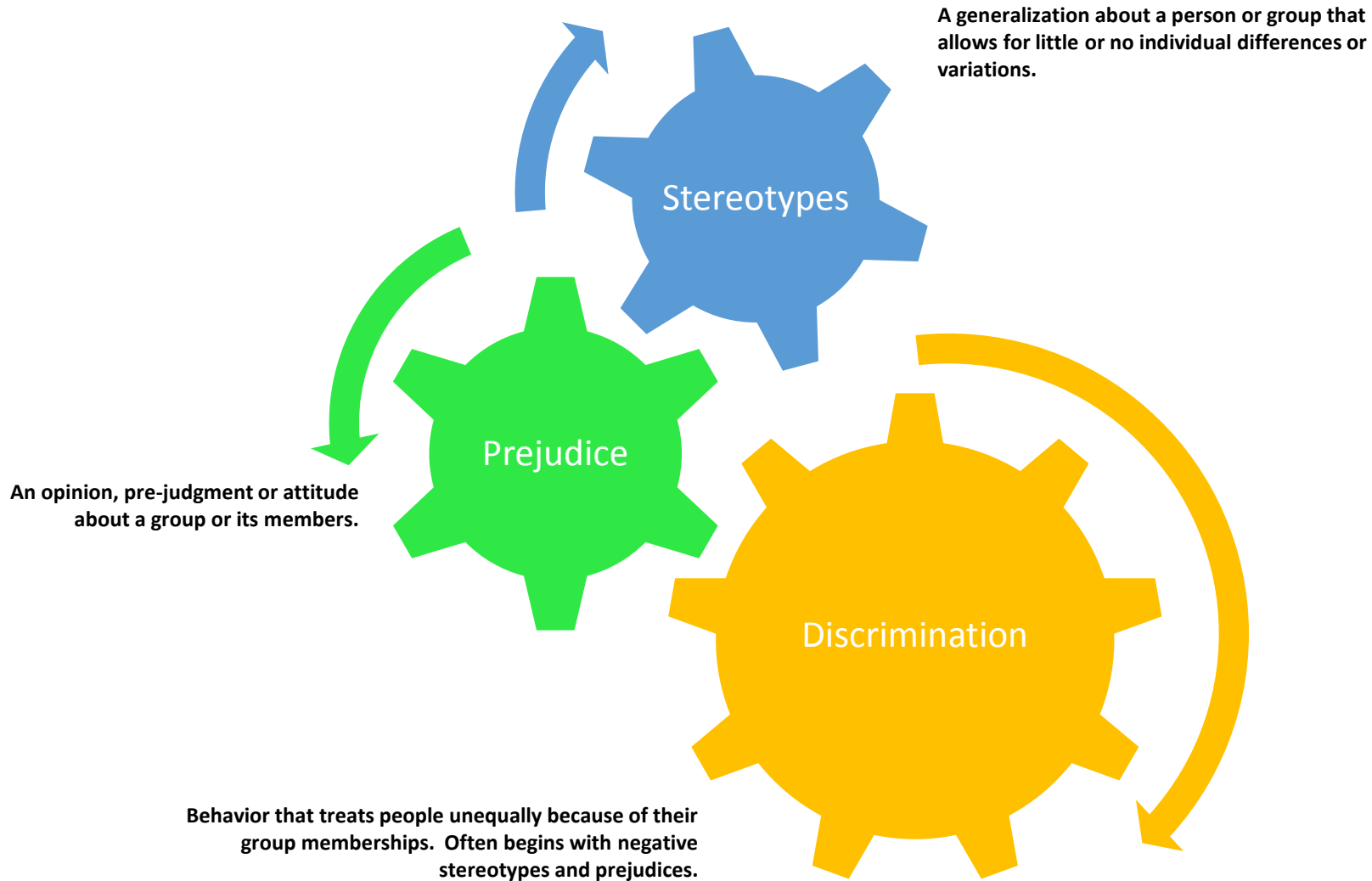
- Learn the demographics of the group and prepare accordingly.
- Look at each person in the audience and smile at them.
- Use a variety of methodologies--visual, auditory, and kinesthetic to diverse different learning preferences.
- Be comfortable with saying, "I don't know."



Effective classroom engagement with all students

- Use words that **include** rather than **exclude**.
- Metaphors are effective, but remember to change them up.
- Remember that people have different abilities.
- Ask for the correct pronunciation of someone's name.
- If someone has an accent and you can't understand what they are saying, ask them to repeat their comments slowly.

The System of **Bias**





What is implicit bias?

- the attitudes or stereotypes that affect our understanding, actions, and decisions in an unconscious manner
- implicit bias may make us us to jump to unwarranted conclusions

From: <http://kirwaninstitute.osu.edu/research/understanding-implicit-bias/>



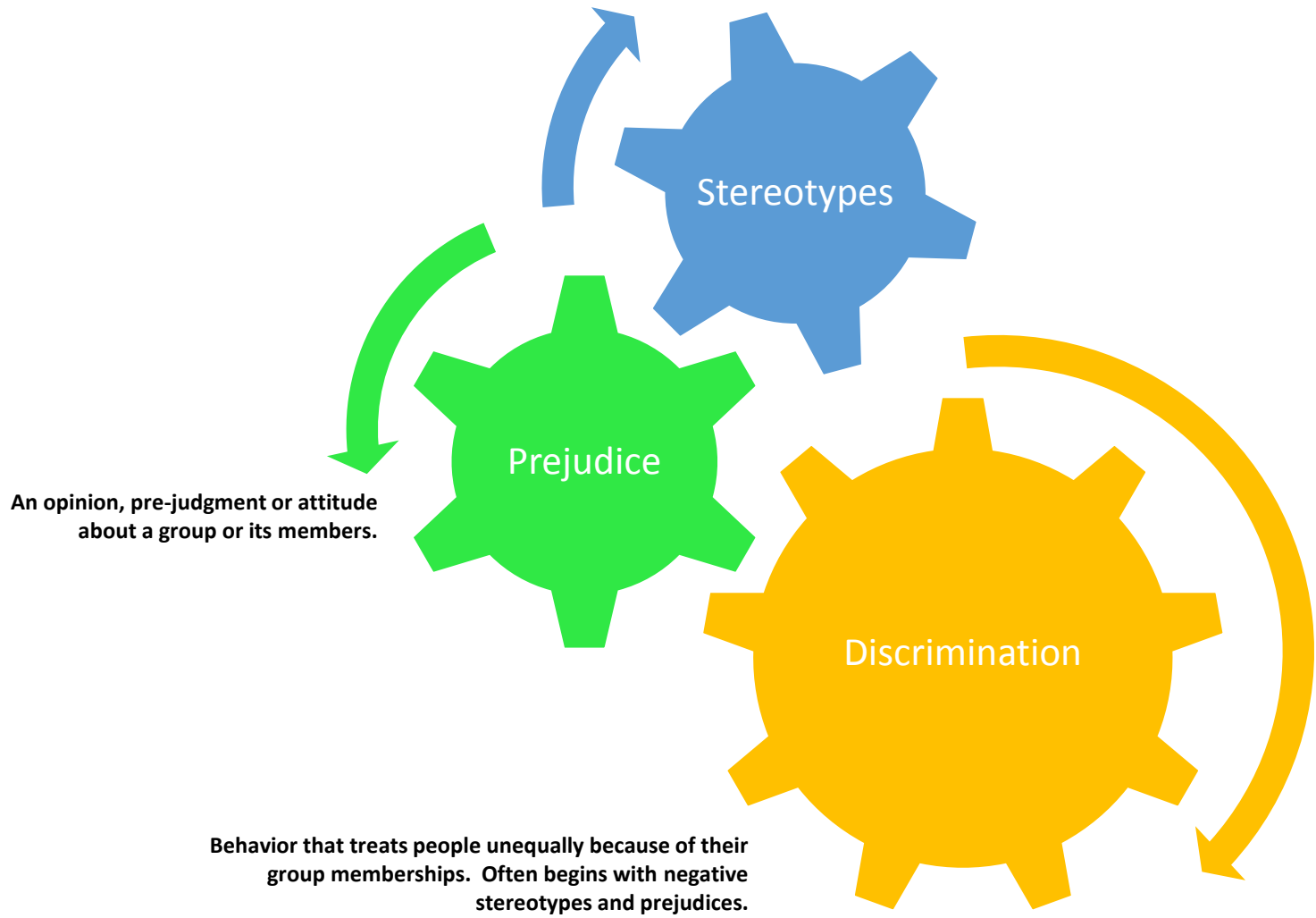
Project Implicit®

The Implicit Association Test (IAT) measures attitudes and beliefs that people may be unwilling or unable to report.

<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/education.html>

The System of **Bias**

A generalization about a person or group that allows for little or no individual differences or variations.





Microaggression



noun

mi·cro·ag·gres·sion | \ ,mī-krō-ə-'gre-shən \

Definition of *microaggression*

: a comment or action that subtly and often unconsciously or unintentionally expresses a prejudiced attitude toward a member of a marginalized group (such as a racial minority)



Minimizing micoraggressions in the classroom

*“As reported and documented by students, the following are offered as examples for reflection in an effort to **raise awareness and sensitivity toward creating more inclusive and supportive classroom and school environments.**”*

From: https://www.messiah.edu/download/.../id/.../Microaggressions_in_the_Classroom.pdf



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