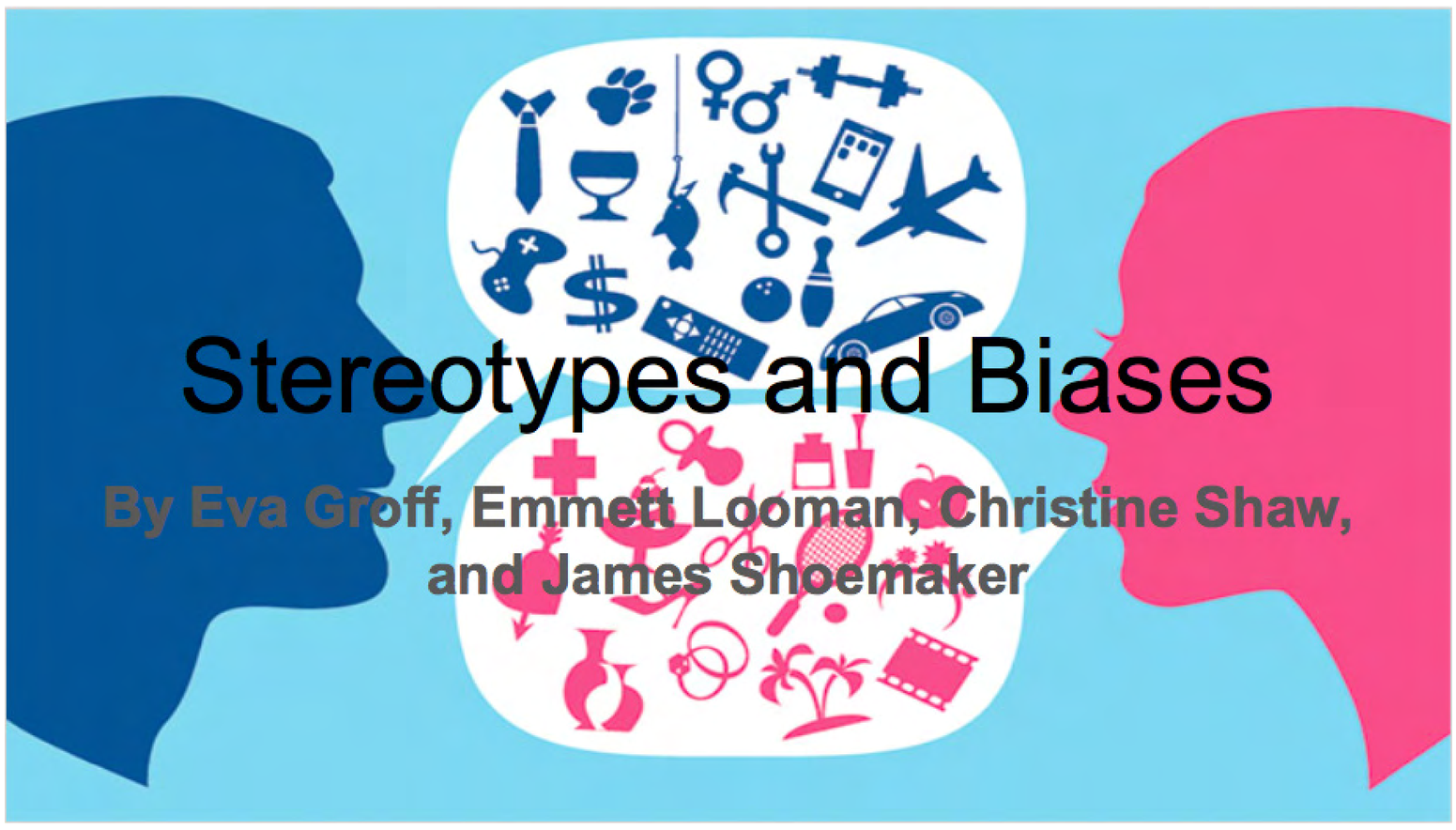
2018 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Art, Essay, & Multimedia Contest



Why Should We Care?

Simply, stereotypes and biases serve to unfairly and sometimes unintentionally keep qualified, capable people out of jobs or positions of power. Most people subconsciously take points off if someone isn't tall, thin, white, and/or male. For example, let's say an African-American man is taking a job interview. We may not realize it, but we are less eager to lean in, smile and laugh less, maintain eye contact, and we may even point out bodies away from him. This subconsciously causes him to be less friendly and confident, ultimately leading to a higher chance of him not getting the job, even though he may be qualified.
(citation 2)

How to Counteract This

Step one is to admit that you probably have biases. This will allow to take the next steps to counteract it. Next, keep your biases in mind and slow down to question your immediate thoughts about someone. Are you thinking this because you're biased? Step three is to expose yourself to different experiences. This will better help you understand people who are different from you or how stereotypes evolved. Finally, spread awareness and help others understand biases. Then we can fix bias as a whole.
(citation 2)

Emmett Looman, Eva Groff, Christine Shaw and James Shoemaker
Multimedia Winner

Schilling School for Gifted Children, Cincinnati

Dr. Susan Farber, Teacher
Dr. Sandra Schilling, Principal

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