



**UNESCO Chair
on Visual Anticipation
and Futures Literacy
towards Visual Literacy**



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ACTIVITY 3: BELIEFS, PERCEPTION & REALITY

Text References

- ❖ In the beginning of the film, we hear the question “Helen who? Who is Helen?”. The answers that follow indicate different understandings: “Helen is our dreams; Helen is our fights; She is our illusions; It is Helen of Greece and Troy”.
- ❖ At 11’ 59” in the film we hear the statement “The unbelievable and the unseen seem evident in the eyes of faith”.

Objectives

The objective of this activity is to unpack how individual beliefs and assumptions impact ‘seeing’ and perceiving reality.

Instructions

Share with learners statements or images from the media involving current social, environmental, political, or other events, and ask them to take brief notes on what they see and of how they interpret them. Organize learners in small groups to discuss how their beliefs, values and assumptions affect their interpretations and shape their arguments. Share with the whole group and bring attention on the diverse interpretations.

Shift the focus to the public sphere and, again, share examples of historical, political, social, environmental or other events, where dominant collective narratives and assumptions shape/d behaviours and decisions. Where do these narratives draw their arguments from (spiritual, cultural, ethnic, other)? Repeat the noting and sharing.



Focus on assumptions. Ask learners to make their assumptions specific by writing down "I assumed that..." and discuss how they shaped their actions and decisions.

Indicative Discussion Questions

- ✚ What influences individual beliefs and how these beliefs impact interpretations of the world?
- ✚ How do assumptions fill the information gaps?
- ✚ What is the role of assumptions in creating 'reality'?
- ✚ Are deep-rooted beliefs incompatible with critical thinking and if so, what gets in the way?
- ✚ How do we determine whether a belief is constructive and creative or limiting?
- ✚ How do our beliefs and assumptions impact decision-making and our future?
- ✚ How do collective beliefs and assumptions shape collective actions?

Recommended Application of Visual Literacy tools

This activity is mostly compatible with the "Babel", the "Alternative Futures", the "Five Mirrors", the "Identity Triangle" and the "Stage" visual literacy tools.

NOTE: The Visual Literacy tools list is accessible at <https://vickykaraiskou.com/> Check the "Visual Literacy" tab and go at the "Tools" page.