Stereotype Threat is when someone or a group of people are automatically considered to have certain traits, characteristics, abilities, or flaws simply because of their ethnic, religious, gender, political, or any other group association. This can be very harmful and unfair to both those affected and even to a certain extent to those who are ascribing the stereotype. While the former may be obvious, the latter can be less so. Those ascribing the stereotypes could be denying themselves of the opportunity to know, trust, respect, and listen to those who they have placed the stereotype upon, in a proper and fair view.

There are many examples of Stereotype of Threat, most of which are common to everyone, such as those about race, religion, and ethnicity. All of which are very concerning and hopefully one day, we will live in a world where everyone will be treated equally based on their merit and have an opportunity to prove their merit. There are some less obvious cases, or groups affected by Stereotype Threat, but I believe in a democratic republic, are very detrimental to the health and future of our society and nation.

One of these less obvious cases, I believe is political association Stereotype threats. Our country has become increasingly more hostile towards opposing political views in recent years, to the extent where certain employers have made public announcements that they refuse to hire or promote anyone who has certain political beliefs, associates with a particular political party, or voted for a certain candidate. We have even seen people’s homes spray painted and vandalized simply for posting a common political banner in their lawn during election season. It has even resulted in groups of people brutally attacking people who wear a hat, shirt, or button showing their support for a candidate. In the most egregious cases groups of people have beaten and attacked people walking down the street or driving in their car simply because they look like a stereotypical supporter of a certain party.

One of the hallmarks and tenants of a healthy democracy is to not only have the right to politically associate with any lawful political group, and speak your mind and opinions about your views for the good of the nation, but also to have to be exposed to opposing views, which could make certain people feel angry or uncomfortable about, so long as they are somewhat mainstream views and don’t support hate or violence. This does not mean that one has to forcibly listen to such views, but it does mean that they can’t take action to silence or intimidate the opposition from expressing their views, gathering together for speeches, and voting their conscience.

1. What are classes? Be sure to define the following terms in your explanation and describe the relationships between them:

* class
* state
* behavior
* instance variable
* instance method

Classes in ruby are like a cookie-cutter. They are molding by which you can pass through data, and it will process that data in a certain way. It can be used again and again with similar types of data, each processed in the same way. Classes comprise of state, or “instance variables” and behavior, or “methods.” The state is private to the class object, unless it is made public via publicly accessible methods. Instance variables, or “state” is a variable which is initialized, which gives it the ability to be accessible inside any method inside the class. We could think of them as global variables within the scope of the class. They always begin with the @ sign. From what I can gather, ruby classes primarily have two types of methods (might be more, but I’ll address the ones I’m aware of), which are class methods and instance methods. Class methods are related to the parent class and will have the word “self” attached or next to them (def self.process or Game << self). Instance methods are more similar to the types of methods we are all familiar with, where it is defined in the more common way which would also be used outside of a class, like def process. Instance methods only work with the instance, so you need to create a new one for each instance. Class methods can only be called on classes and instance methods can only be called on instances.

2. What are attributes?

Attributes are specific properties of an object and can only be accessible inside the class unless you provide attr\_reader/writer/accessor or getter/setter methods.

3. Give an example of a real world object, and describe how you might assign its attributes if you were to design a class to represent that object.

A real world example of an object is a recipe or a how to instructional. For example, the class would be grow a tomato plant.

def plant seeds(20), def water(3 cups), sunshine(8 hours), time(3 months), while tomato is green continue. If tomato is red, pluck, wash, and eat.

4. What is the purpose of the initialize method? When does it run?

The purpose of the initialize method is to create instance variables, which start with the @ sign and are globally accessible inside the scope of the class.

5. What are modules?

Modules are similar to classes, but they are specifically geared towards functions or methods whereas classes are primarily focused on objects. There can be mixins where they interact with each other.

6. What are the different ways you can use a module?

You could use a module by itself, or as a mixin incorporating classes.