

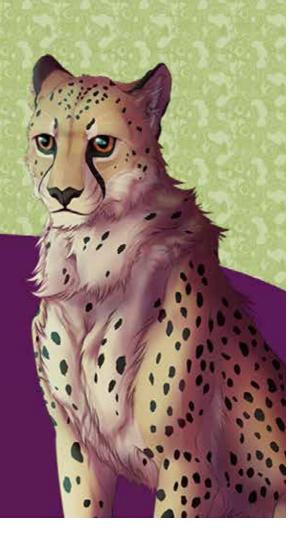
## Social Skills Impressions from Appearances

Available in the format below:



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## **Impressions from Appearances**

I tell my students that they are constantly being judged by their appearance. Not that it's right to be judged or judge others from how they look—it just is. Strangers on the street are getting an impression of them just from how they look: their face, their hair, their body, their clothes, their posture, and their actions. I also tell them that the impressions derived from appearances are often not accurate. I use the Impressions from Appearances activity to increase my students' awareness of this phenomenon, and also to demonstrate that the conclusions we may jump to from appearances can be wrong. For the activity, we take turns "being judged", as the others fill out the form together. I always go first, and I never make a student who seems uncomfortable take a turn. Also, almost every appearance feature on the form is one that we have control over, such as clothing. I purposely didn't include body features such as height or weight. For "face", we focus on controllable features, including makeup or beards. I make sure to point out that the possible impressions various appearances give are often mistaken stereotypes, e.g., women with a lot of tattoos are radical or men who wear jewelry must be gay. After the form is filled out for each turn, the person judged goes through the "possible impressions" and tells if each is accurate, somewhat accurate, or inaccurate.

Name	. Date	

## **Impressions from Appearances**

Appearance	Possible Impression
hair	
color:	
length:	
other:	
face	
shirt/blouse/top	
pants/skirt/shorts	
shoes	
accessories	
body language	
eye contact:	
legs:	
miscellaneous:	
actions	

Name	 Date	

## Impressions from Appearances Sample (teenage girl)

**Possible Impression Appearance** 

hair

color: wild, outgoing red

length: long youthful, not conservative

other: purple streak adventurous

face

no makeup natural, young

shirt/blouse/top

bohemian, embroidered shirt liberal, hippie-ish

pants/skirt/shorts

ripped jeans casual, easy-going

shoes

motorcycle boots tough

accessories

a little radical nose ring

gold locket old-fashioned, sentimental

body language

eye contact: sporadic shy, uncomfortable

arms: crossed annoyed or uncomfortable

legs: shifting from foot to foot impatient or nervous

miscellaneous:

eyebrows up expectant not smiling serious

actions

biting nails nervous, stressed keeps looking in mirror self-conscious