Scenario = Making Friends in a New Environment. (eg: Making friends in a new city/college)

Details =

A new Environment where you are a newcomers and & want to form genuine friendships with people in the new environment.

Approaches for Different Individuals =

1. For the Outgoing/Extroverted Person:

- Talking to these People are the Easiest they can easily make friends with anyone.

- They are very social and can easily start a conversation with anyone.

- They are very friendly/talkative and can easily make friends with anyone and are likely to respond positively to spontaneous, engaging conversations.

2. For the Reserved/Introverted Person:

- Talking to these people are hard at first as they are shy and introverted & most times can have social anxiety & are not comfortable talking to strangers.

- To Talk to them you have begin with a gentle introduction, possibly in a quieter setting, and allow extra time for a response.

- Look for Signs of them Backing off or looking Uncomfortable & give them space.

- Get to Know them by asking them about their interests and hobbies.

- Be a Good Listener and give them attention & A softer, less intrusive approach helps build trust and comfort for someone who needs more time to open up.

3. For the Person with Uncommon Interests:

- They have a hard time finding people with similar interests.

- Ask them direct questions about their interests and hobbies.

- Show genuine interest and respect for their individuality, which can break down initial barriers.

- The Benefits of having a friend with uncommon interests can be rewarding as it can help you learn new things and broaden your horizons.

4. For the Person in an Established Group:

- These people are generally hard to approach as they are already in a group and are not looking for new friends.

- To Approach them you have to be confident, friendly and show interest in their shared activities.

- Talk to each member of the group individually & with the group as a whole.

- Look for common interests and hobbies that can help you connect with the group &or each individual member.

Identified biases =

1. Confirmation Bias:

Description: Once you form an initial impression, you might only notice behaviors that confirm your beliefs (e.g., assuming a reserved person is uninterested in socializing).

Impact: Missed opportunities to engage meaningfully if early judgments aren't reassessed..

2. Stereotyping (Appearance/Interest Bias):

Description: Quick judgments based on looks, hobbies, or social cues.

Impact: Approaching someone solely based on assumptions can prevent a true understanding of their personality.

3. Halo Effect:

Description: Allowing one positive trait (such as friendliness) to influence overall judgment.

Impact: May overshadow other important qualities or concerns, leading to unbalanced social evaluation

4. In-Group Bias:

Description: Tendency to favor individuals who share similar interests or backgrounds.

Impact: May lead to unintentional exclusion of those who seem different, making it harder to form diverse friendships

Impact on decision making =

1. Risk of Exclusion:

- Biases can lead to unintentional exclusion of individuals who don't fit initial assumptions, limiting potential friendships.

2. Missed Opportunities:

- Focusing on initial judgments can prevent deeper connections with people who might have been great friends.

3. Limited Understanding:

- Biases can prevent a full understanding of someone's personality, leading to superficial or inaccurate friendships.

4. Prejudgment:

- Prejudging someone based on appearance or interests can prevent genuine connections from forming.

5. Group Dynamics:

- In-group bias can limit interactions with diverse individuals, leading to a narrow social circle.

Mitigation Strategies =

1. Self-Awareness and Reflection:

- Regularly reflect on initial judgments and reassess them to avoid confirmation bias.

2. Tailored Communication:

- Adjust your approach based on individual personalities to avoid stereotyping and halo effects.

3. Open-Mindedness:

- Be open to different personalities and interests, allowing for diverse friendships to develop.

4. Open-Ended Questions:

- Ask open-ended questions to understand people beyond initial impressions, reducing prejudgment.

5. Inclusive Approach:

- Actively seek out individuals with diverse backgrounds and interests to counter in-group bias.

6. Active Listening:

- Listen attentively to others to understand their perspectives and build meaningful connections.

7. Diverse Interaction:

- Engage with a variety of people to broaden your social circle and challenge existing biases.

8. Empathy and Understanding:

- Put yourself in others' shoes to appreciate their unique experiences and foster genuine friendships.

9. Feedback and Adaptation:

- Accept feedback on your social interactions and adapt your approach to improve future connections.

10. Patience and Persistence:

- Building friendships takes time, so be patient and persistent in your efforts to form meaningful relationships.