

ACADEMY SCHOLARS LIFE SKILLS 7: PREJUDICE.

A: SCENE SETTER:

**Consider the video clip of Watford FC in the 1977 -1978 season.
Were you aware of the racist abuse directed towards Luther Blissett in that
sequence? Is that evidence of prejudice?**

B: WHAT IS PREJUDICE?

What do you understand by the word, what's it mean?

Share your opinions:

Consider the dictionary definition.

What is prejudice about? What is meant by 'pre-judging'?

C: WHAT FORMS CAN IT TAKE?

**Prejudice can be for or against something or someone. It relates to a bias, and
may influence aspects of life like:**

RACIAL ISSUES

GENDER ISSUES

AGE ISSUES

RELIGIOUS ISSUES

DISABILITY ISSUES

SOCIAL CLASS ISSUES

And many other matters! Give examples from the list above or other areas.

D: PREJUDICE AND FOOTBALL:

Do we find prejudice in the football world? In which of the following ways:

- Race / colour
- Gender
- Sexual orientation
- Age
- Religion
- Disability

What might cause prejudicial attitudes and actions?

How might we combat prejudicial attitudes and actions?

E: SENSITIVITY & POLITICAL CORRECTNESS:

What is meant by being “POLITICALLY CORRECT”

What is the PC version of

- Clergyman
- Mankind
- Postman
- White and Black Coffee
- Short
- Blind

What might be the benefits and dangers of political correctness?

How can we speak with greater sensitivity, in a non-prejudicial way?

Can you think of some examples of this?

CONSIDER

- *Factual and Emotive statements*
- *Value Judgements and Empirical Statements*
- meaning what?

CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING SERIES OF STATEMENTS:

- A man was attacked in Rochdale
- A Black man was attacked in Rochdale
- A Black man was attacked by white youths in Rochdale
- A Black man was attacked by a gang of white youths in Rochdale
- A Black, disabled man was attacked by a gang of white racist youths in Rochdale.
- ❖ What is the difference between what is conveyed by the first statement and the last statement?

F: PREJUDICE IN THE WORLD

What might be at the root of Prejudice – perhaps the challenge of coping with the unfamiliar, the different, that which threatens what we feel is normal or routine?

Consider the role of the influencing surroundings in creating prejudice – the crowd, the peer group, power of propaganda?

CONSIDER –

- NAZI Germany under Hitler – and the role of state controlled media, propaganda in Anti-Semitism, The Final Solution, The Gas Chambers, Auschwitz, etc.
- Martin Luther King – Racial Discrimination in the USA in the 1950s and 1960s: seats for white on buses, separate toilets, restaurants, etc. C/f Martin Luther King’s “I have a dream” speech. Go google this!

“I have a dream that one day, people will not be judged by the colour of their skin, but by the sort of people they are.”

G: THE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS:

- **Most people see prejudice as a bad thing**
- **But let this topic examine you – do you have prejudices?**
- **Can we confuse prejudice with personal preferences and attitudes?**

CONSIDER:

- ❖ **Many dislike the idea of smoking in public places: is this an ethical judgement or prejudice against smokers?**
- ❖ **Most feel paedophilia is utterly wrong: is that ethical judgement or prejudice against paedophiles?**
- ❖ **Some feel a promiscuous gay lifestyle is something they would not affirm: is that ethical judgement or prejudice against gays?**
- ❖ **If someone believes the way we should live should include celibacy before marriage and fidelity within marriage: is that ethical judgement or prejudice against liberal attitudes to sexual ethics?**
- ❖ **Is it always easy to identify prejudice?**

What have we learned about prejudice? It can be powerful, destructive and dangerous – yet something we all can be prone to!

And sometimes the attitudes which are prejudicial are seen as just part of life:

- **“Stand up if you hate Man U ...”**
- **“If you all hate Scousers, clap your hands..”**
- **“I can’t stand religious people..”**
- **“I could never work for a female manager..”**

PERHAPS we should keep examining our attitudes to life and people and institutions - and prejudice!