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Exploring cultural stereotypes with a critical eye via AI-generated images.

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Exploring cultural stereotypes with a critical eye via AI-generated images.

**Summary:** Students will investigate cultural stereotypes by generating images in AI, and then providing a critique of those images. This assignment aims to foster awareness, empathy, and critical thinking. By examining AI-generated images, students can actively challenge stereotypes and contribute to a more informed and compassionate world.

**Learning Goals:**

By completing this assignment students will:

1. Assess the accuracy of AI-generated images
2. Identify aspects of the images that re-enforce cultural stereotypes
3. Critique the AI-generated images
4. Refine the original images by employing more specific prompts

**Introduction:**

- Begin by discussing the prevalence of cultural stereotypes in media, art, and everyday life.
- Explain how AI algorithms can perpetuate or challenge these stereotypes through visual representations.
- Emphasize the role of geography in shaping cultural narratives.
- Use examples of stereotypical imagery
- Remind students that stereotypes are often oversimplified and may not accurately represent the complexity of cultures.
- Using a simple prompt, each student will use AI to generate an image that reflects a cultural stereotype.

**Visual Analysis:**

- Have students analyze their chosen image (they can do this alone or in pairs/small groups)
- Describe the elements within the image that reinforce the stereotype.
- Analyze color choices, composition, and symbolism.
- Consider the historical context and cultural references.
- Discuss how the image aligns with or challenges existing stereotypes

**Geographical Implications:**

- Connect the stereotype to geographical spaces:
- How does the image relate to specific regions, landscapes, or urban environments?
- Discuss how geography influences cultural perceptions.
- Explore how stereotypes affect cross-cultural interactions and global understanding.

**Contextual Research (an extension activity):**
• Students research the cultural context:
  • What group or identity is being stereotyped?
  • Explore the origins and perpetuation of this stereotype.
  • Investigate how media (including AI-generated content) contributes to cultural biases.
  • Consider the impact on individuals and communities.

Image Refinement (extension activity)

• Students provide more precise prompts to create new (and hopefully) more accurate images
• Students compare original image to subsequent iterations.

The image above was generated by Dall-E 3.0 via the Microsoft Co-Pilot Platform (April 2, 2024), based on the simple prompt: Draw a typical image of Africa.

This assignment was created with the assistance of Microsoft Bing and the Co-Pilot AI tool.