

Washington University in St. Louis

Washington University Open Scholarship

Generative AI Teaching Activities

Center for Teaching and Learning

Spring 4-3-2024

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

Eric Fournier

Washington University in St. Louis, efournier@wustl.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/ai_teaching



Part of the [Arts and Humanities Commons](#), and the [Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Fournier, Eric, "Exploring cultural stereotypes with a critical eye via AI-generated images." (2024).

Generative AI Teaching Activities. 1.

https://openscholarship.wustl.edu/ai_teaching/1

This Teaching Material is brought to you for free and open access by the Center for Teaching and Learning at Washington University Open Scholarship. It has been accepted for inclusion in Generative AI Teaching Activities by an authorized administrator of Washington University Open Scholarship. For more information, please contact digital@wumail.wustl.edu.

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:

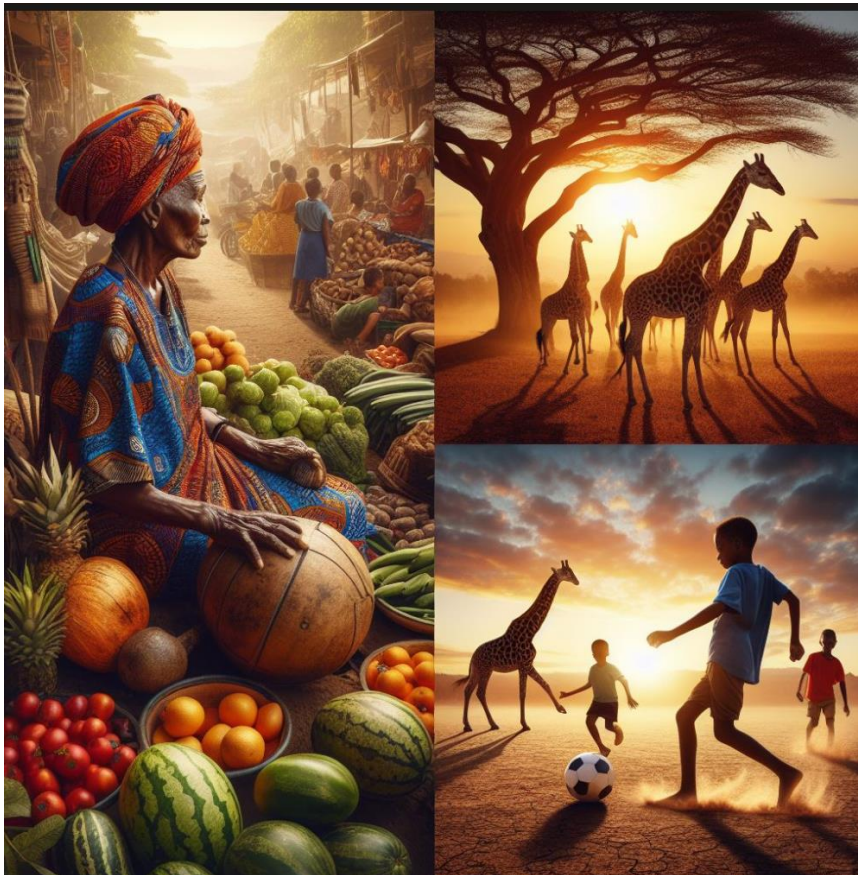
- Connect the stereotype to geographical spaces:
- How does the image relate to specific regions, landscapes, or urban environments?
- Discuss how geography influences cultural perceptions.
- Explore how stereotypes affect cross-cultural interactions and global understanding.

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.