PHOTO CARD ACTIVITY

- Provide access to photos of the 43 participants. Give them time to browse.
- Ask each person to select two photos:
    - One who represents the person you would expect to have the most in common with
    - One who represents the person you would expect to have the least in common with
    ** Please exclude any persons you actually know.
- Acknowledge that this might feel awkward, and that they will not be required to share their choices. Also, suggest that it is important to be present, to respect confidentiality, and to assume positive intent to provide compassionate space for conversations that fan feel uncomfortable or risky.
- Have them write down who they imagine these people to be (volunteers to share?)
- Have them read the two individuals' narratives from the book. Challenge them to find:
    - Something they have in common with the person they expected to have the least in common with
    - Something unexpected about the person they expected to have the most in common with (volunteers to share?)
- Take aways might include: Intersectionality (many intersecting identities); everyone's stories are more than meets the eye; these are stories that you don't get to hear unless you are willing to listen or think to ask; features paid attention to when finding people assumed to be dis/similar (our tendency to make assumptions of people based on the way they dress, their assumed ethnicity, religious garb, whether or not they are smiling, age, and even their name – important to be aware of these biases); many times we *do* have a lot in common with those people who look like us (common experiences), but 1) this doesn't mean that everyone who looks the same has the same life history (also, there is no singular way to "be" X [eg, Hispanic, gay, an activist]; and 2) this cannot keep us from looking for the commonalities with others, and learning from our differences.
    - Ask for someone to share something they learned from the "dissimilar" person

Justification

- The theory of intergroup contact states that interaction with people different from oneself promotes acceptance and reduces discrimination (Pettigrew & Tropp, 2006; this interaction is usually face-to-face, but similar effects have been shown for storytelling or imagined encounters with others - Dovidio, Eller, & Hewstone, 2011).
- A recent study suggests that spending just 10 minutes speaking to someone different from yourself can help to reduce your prejudices toward that individual, and the groups you identify them with. We just must open our minds and our hearts to considering that everyone has something to say and to contribute to our society.

Developed by Arianna Huhn, Cal State San Bernardino