

NATIONAL SIKH FOCUS GROUP
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS, JULY 16, 2014, 5:30 P.M.

MODERATOR: I would like to start by going around the room, everyone introduce yourself. You can say your first name, what you do for a living, and who you live with. So let's start with Eric.

ERIC: Hi, I'm Eric. Married, I have a 17-year-old son. I work for a company where we work at Navy Pier, we work at the McCormick Place, and we work at . . . the Civic Center. And we help people with like the setup and logistics of whatever they need. So when there's a show and they need, whatever they need, we can help.

MODERATOR: Welcome.

MAGGIE: My name is Mogajata(?), I go by Maggie. I'm a nurse in OB/GYN. I live with my husband and two kids, five and three.

SHARON: My name is Sharon, and I work in a restaurant. I'm a server. And I live with my husband and my son.

DAN: My name is Dan. I work for a manufacturing, and I live with my wife.

LINDA: I'm Linda, and I work, as a stockperson, and I live with my very long-time boyfriend.

LEN: Hi, I'm Len. Right now I'm living alone. And I work for . . . restaurant business, for a local place right here in beautiful downtown Des Plaines.

KAREN: I'm Karen, I've got three girls, one granddaughter. I work in customer service and live in Elmwood Park.

NICOLE: I'm Nicole. I work for Village of Rosemont as their IT specialist. And I have three kids, I live with my husband and our three kids in Rosemont.

CHARLES: I'm Charles. I've been married for a little over four years. I'm self-employed, I mainly paint and hang drywall.

MODERATOR: So we're going to be going through these little booklets throughout. I'm going to pass them out. Just take one. Put your name on the front, and then pass it along. Don't look ahead. I know this is kind of back to school, but we'll work our way through it slowly. And then the other thing I want to do is I'm going to pass out, these are a little deck of cards, deck of faces, images of people. When you get it you can take off the rubber band and sort through them, look through, get to know the people. You all have the same images.

MAN: You want our first and last name . . .

MODERATOR: No, just first name. Thank you. So sort through them, get to know your folks. Take a look at them as you get to know them a little, but don't talk to your neighbors.

WOMAN: Oh . . .

MODERATOR: Not yet. We will. And what I'm going to have you do is, first, sometimes, I don't know if you do this, but sometimes when I'm with my husband or . . . my friends and we're sitting at the airport, we might make up stories about random people that we see. Unless you're a robot, most of us have like some sort of gut reaction or intuition about the people we see just based on their looks.

So I'm going to ask you to play along and do that. I know you don't have any background information other than their pictures, I realize that. But I want you to just use your gut reaction, what I want you to do is, if you turn your booklet to the first page, it should say Handout A on it. These are, I don't know if you had this in your high school yearbook, but like most likely to awards.

So, most likely to be president, most likely to go to the Olympics, that kind of thing. I want you to give each of these, assign each of the awards a person who you think would be most likely to get that. And just one person for each. You can use the same person multiple times. You have more cards than there are awards, so there are some people who won't get any awards, and that's perfectly fine.

It looks like most of you are done. Don't think too much about it. Your gut reaction is perfectly fine. And before we talk about it I want to do something else really quick. This is also going to be just a little difficult. I want you to, at the bottom of your page, write Hindu and your best guess, write down the letters of anyone in here you think is Hindu. And if you don't know, you don't know, but your best guess is fine.

WOMAN: In here?

MODERATOR: On the bottom of your page. So write Hindu . . .

WOMAN: People in the room, or the pictures?

MODERATOR: The pictures. So write down the letters. And let's see, I want to make this slightly more difficult. I'm going to add . . . do one more, a Sikh. So write down, if you don't know, you don't know, perfectly fine, but write down Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh. And then write down any letters of people you think are . . . and like I said, if you have no idea, you can leave it blank, that's fine.

So I want to find out who you gave awards to. And I kind of encourage you to tell me more about the person and why you gave this award to them. So I want to start with most likely to get elected to Congress. Can you hold up the card of the person you think is most likely to get elected? Interesting. All right. I see several M's. Can you explain to me why you chose that guy?

WOMAN: He looks smart and intelligent and looks like he would know what he's doing.

MODERATOR: What about you, Linda?

LINDA: One-hundred percent stereotype.

MODERATOR: What is it . . .

LINDA: Just absolutely. Just the clean cut.

MODERATOR: I saw several K's. What is it, what is it about . . .

MAN: Same thing, she looks intelligent, dressed well, the professional appearance.

MODERATOR: Is that why, same with you, Len?

LEN: Yeah, more or less. She's kind of got the smile of the politician look, the political . . .

MODERATOR: And, Karen . . .

LEN: Like, hi, I'm running for office . . .

MAN: Exactly what I was thinking.

MODERATOR: Karen, I think you're the only person who put, what letter is it, J?

KAREN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Why did you pick him?

KAREN: It seems like that's what's happening.

MODERATOR: What do you mean?

KAREN: It just seems like this is, it's just going on more and more, whatever nationality, they're, it's, going into politics more and more.

MODERATOR: I get it.

WOMAN: I didn't have that one.

MODERATOR: You don't have that one?

WOMAN: Uh-uh. H, I. There's no J.

MODERATOR: That's okay. No, that's fine.

WOMAN: I mean, I finished already, so . . .

MODERATOR: Let's go on to military, who did you think is most likely to serve in the military? A lot of C's. Sharon, why did you pick C for that?

SHARON: It was really hard to pick out, because he didn't even look like he's in the military. But he looks like he just has a sincere kind of devoted look in that he may have served at one point.

MODERATOR: So he might have served. Who else picked, you have B, Maggie?

MAGGIE: Yeah. He looks like he would have been in the military, like tired and worn out a little bit.

MODERATOR: What about you, Eric?

ERIC: Well, for one thing, he's white. And some of the comments that were already said, he's, kind of looks like that. He just has that appearance that he's not overly excited and not depressed. It just seems like someone that's been there and done that, and he's got a little a little focus for me.

MODERATOR: And I saw a few I's. Dan, why did you pick I?

DAN: He's probably in high school or just out of high school and wants to start out in life with some type of career, so chose the military.

MAN: Young, athletic.

MODERATOR: Anything else about his looks that make you think?

WOMAN: All-American.

MODERATOR: All-American. Great. Let's go on to school bully. Who did you say is most likely to have been a school bully? All right. Do you have one? Can do it. All right. Let's see, let's hear from a P. I see a few P's. Karen, what?

KAREN: Well, he's just got an evil look.

MODERATOR: All right.

SHARON: I agree, she has that smirk like she's just waiting for somebody . . .

MODERATOR: That she's up to something.

WOMAN: And nowadays half the girls are so catty . . .

WOMAN: Oh, yeah.

WOMAN: . . . look of that.

MODERATOR: I saw our military man made another appearance. C, why did you pick C?

MAN: He probably could have been a school bully and then his life went on. He just changed and started being employed.

MODERATOR: I think you had . . .

MAN: I didn't have anything immediately for on the page, but my high school experience, there's always kind of a rowdy bunch on the football team that can tend to pick on the weaker ones, and flashed that really quick.

MODERATOR: Let's do the flip side then, the most likely to have been bullied. Who did you pick for that? All right . . . who do I see . . . I guess B.

WOMAN: Unfortunately, I think kids are very mean nowadays. The fact that, if he has to wear this every time when he goes to school, they might pick on him just a little bit . . . on his head.

MODERATOR: Dan?

DAN: Same thing, just the way he's dressed.

MODERATOR: What about you, Linda, why did you pick?

LINDA: My past experience, this was always the type of kid that got just really a hard time, tacks on the chair and awful things like that. So, yeah, they were the ones that got . . .

MAN: Ginger.

MODERATOR: Oh, a ginger. And, Nicole, I think some people thought he was a bully, but you think he would have been bullied.

NICOLE: Yeah, he kind of has the not, his hair is longer and he, I don't know, I've got two boys, so, I just feel like he'd, I don't know why, just my first thought. He would just be bullied, like not . . . I guess, anyway. Maybe a little . . . I don't know.

MODERATOR: Let's see, Nobel Prize, who's most likely to win the Nobel Prize? We've got several G's. So, Charles, start us off.

CHARLES: I just kind of saw him as some kind of author that might have written a handful of books that were just real eye openers to the world or something . . . something that just caught and blew open society or something.

MODERATOR: Sharon, why did you pick G?

SHARON: He looks deeply contemplative.

CHARLES: Yeah.

MODERATOR: And what about the N's, you three N's?

WOMAN: Intellectual, he looks intellectual.

MODERATOR: What's about him that looks intellectual?

WOMAN: He just has that button-up shirt, the . . . plain T underneath, he's got the glasses . . . looks like an IT kind of person.

MODERATOR: Len, why did you pick A?

LEN: I was really stuck on that one. That one came most difficult, because I really couldn't find . . . I suppose there's a stereotypical, the scholastically Asian guy.

MODERATOR: Same, Linda?

LINDA: Same thing.

MODERATOR: I want to hear Dan. What is it about . . . what letter is she?

DAN: N.

MODERATOR: N.

DAN: Probably some type of physicist or doctor of something, discovered something.

MODERATOR: What about her looks like a physicist or a doctor?

DAN: She just looks like a physicist or a doctor, I don't know why. I guess this guy could too, but then he could be a mass murderer too.

LEN: You guys all like this guy that won awards, this is the guy that would have been picked on, I think.

MODERATOR: Oh, well . . . and maybe he . . .

LEN: Or that he probably would, since he . . . business or politics . . .

MODERATOR: Maybe he was picked on, and then he grew up and won the Nobel Prize.

MAN: It could be a guy that wins the Nobel Prize, it could be a woman too.

MODERATOR: Yeah, of course.

MAN: . . . could be a woman too.

MODERATOR: Let's do one more, most likely to get extra scrutiny by TSA at the airport.

WOMAN: Can we have more than one? I have more than one.

MODERATOR: Okay.

WOMAN: You wanted one?

MODERATOR: No, show me both, I'm curious who you were torn between.

MAN: What happens if someone was a TSA employee?

MODERATOR: Were you?

MAN: Yes, I was.

MODERATOR: That'll be interesting. I'm going to have you speak last, because because you have more knowledge. I see a lot of J's.

WOMAN: I just see . . . the typical stereotype of guy that's going to get stopped.

MODERATOR: What . . .

WOMAN: . . . at the airport myself . . .

MAN: He's wearing a turban, I mean.

WOMAN: That's it . . .

WOMAN: I would have picked that one, but I didn't have a J.

MODERATOR: I know.

MAN: My only excuse is, remember 9/11?

MODERATOR: Uh-huh.

MAN: Bingo.

WOMAN: . . . but he's still the guy I look for at the airport and go, I don't want to be on that flight.

MAN: No, when you think of 9/11, you don't see the Norwegian hockey team.

MODERATOR: Let's see, what is that, letter G?

MAN: Yeah, I think this guy would worry me a little more.

MODERATOR: And why is that?

MAN: Well, the other guy is so stereotypical, he's a little older. This guy looks like he could be a terrorist.

WOMAN: Well, they were young, these 9/11 guys.

MAN: Yeah.

MAN: . . . 19.

MAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Tell me about, I think, H. No, no, not H.

WOMAN: I did.

MODERATOR: Oh, you did? Well, go ahead, Eric.

ERIC: Everybody is looking for a guy. And, of course, you're possibly looking for Muslims, Pakistanis, Hindus, those types of Middle Eastern, Afghani-type of people, so the new terrorist seems to be suicide bombers in certain places, and they, right now and so those are the ones that are, stick out a little bit to certain people.

MODERATOR: Ask for scrutiny.

ERIC: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: I got stopped and searched frequently. So not always stereotyping happening.

MODERATOR: Yeah, I also get stopped and searched sometimes. Let's see. So I want you to turn to Handout B. And I want to learn a little bit more about a few people. I'm curious about this H. If you could write down image H. And then the second one must

be J, and then the third one, L. I don't think we talked much about her. So just write down some top-of-mind thoughts, phrases, feelings you have about these people.

So tell me more about J.

WOMAN: He could be a doctor, he looks fairly smart. I sat next to a guy who looked like that when I was on my way to Mexico, and he was a physician.

MAN: And I say he either owns a gas station or a 7/11.

MODERATOR: Others?

WOMAN: He seems cautious, hesitant.

MODERATOR: What gives you that sense?

WOMAN: It's just what I see when I look at the picture.

MODERATOR: Interesting. Others?

MAN: I didn't get much other than his physical appearance, that's well-dressed and friendly. He looks like he has a genuine smile.

MODERATOR: So he obviously has a turban. What's your reaction to seeing someone in a turban?

WOMAN: That was actually one of the things I wrote. I don't even know what it signifies, so that's my question when I see them. Why are we wearing that?

MAN: I just think, a raghead.

MODERATOR: Others? What does it tell you, Linda doesn't know, but did any of you have like any sense for what it signifies?

MAN: It has something to do with his religion, and I'm not sure, he doesn't have a dot, or I think that's the women that have dots, so . . . married.

WOMAN: Yeah, that signifies that they're married.

MAN: Yeah, for a woman. But, I think it has to do with his religion.

MODERATOR: Does it tell you anything about this person, to see that they have a turban on, do you kind of feel like you know a little bit about who they are or what their beliefs are?

WOMAN: Very religious.

MAN: They take it very seriously.

MODERATOR: Very seriously. Okay. What about, what did we do first, H?

WOMAN: Could be a model, successful, a woman who knows what she wants and will get what she wants.

MODERATOR: Others?

MAN: She looks educated, successful, and to me, they all look like cheerful people. None of their eyes, they all are smiling.

MODERATOR: I'm going to put up some pictures here. Some of these you have, and some of them you don't. I'll put her down here . . . you look at these, what's the common thread here? What do you think these people have in common?

WOMAN: They're Middle Eastern.

MAN: . . . regional.

MODERATOR: Regional. Anything else? Do you, generally the Middle East?

MAN: Aside from a little bit of the gray in the gentleman's hair, they look somewhat youthful, obviously the younger ones. But I wouldn't see any of them over 45, 50.

MODERATOR: These people are all Sikh. I'm curious, did anyone, you know, when I had you write down Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, did any of you get J, B, C, H, or N as Sikh?

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: G and H.

MODERATOR: You got G and H?

WOMAN: I got B, D, C, H, J.

WOMAN: I've never heard of it.

MAN: I honestly don't know what it is. I know it's a regional thing, but I don't know if it's a religion or if that's what it is. So I didn't put anything down.

MAN: Yeah, I don't think many of us would be able to tell apart that specifically.

MODERATOR: So as part of the Sikh religion many men and boys and some women wear turbans. Have you ever seen a woman in a turban?

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: And what's your reaction? We talked a little about J, seeing a man in a turban. What's your reaction to seeing a woman in a turban?

WOMAN: Isn't she hot? When they're in the full body.

MODERATOR: Well, I'm not talking about like the full body thing. Just, I don't know if you can see . . .

WOMAN: It's just because they have to hide their beauty.

MODERATOR: What other reactions do you have when you see a woman in a turban?

WOMAN: Just stereotyping them with the other ones.

MODERATOR: What do you mean by that?

WOMAN: You think that they're Muslim. I do.

WOMAN: But they're different, that's what . . .

WOMAN: Well, that turban is different, but I . . .

MODERATOR: It is a little different.

WOMAN: It is, and maybe it has to do with the different type of religions. It's a sign of the different . . .

MAN: . . . denominational within the Muslim religion.

WOMAN: Yeah, right.

WOMAN: Because, I think so. Because this is a different turban. They're all three different.

MODERATOR: Interesting. I know some of you don't know that much, so you might have a completely blank sheet. That's fine. But I want you to turn to Handout B. And I want you to write down thoughts, feelings, phrases that come to mind when you see or think of Sikh people. And now you know a little bit, even if you had no idea before, you know a tiny bit now. I want you to kind of organize how you write it down. So write the positive things at the top, neutral things in the middle, and negative things towards the bottom. So just like thoughts, feelings that you associate with . . . people.

Not these, these are just examples. I'm talking about more in general Sikhs, which is also pronounced Sikh, but I'm just going to keep saying Sikh. I just want to hear, what kinds of things did you put at the top?

WOMAN: Very religious, possibly friendly.

MODERATOR: Did you say possibly friendly?

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: What does that mean?

WOMAN: I don't know many Sikh people, so.

MODERATOR: So some uncertainty.

MAN: They all have to wear beards and mustaches, or at least the men do.

MODERATOR: And do you know why? I'm just curious.

MAN: Maybe it's just part of their culture.

MAN: I put educated. From the little that I know is a lot of doctors and that, whatever . . .
. hospitals and whatnot, they obviously take education very seriously.

MODERATOR: What kinds of neutral things did you put in the middle?

MAN: They're just people.

MODERATOR: Just people.

WOMAN: . . . thing with Muslims.

MODERATOR: So that's a neutral thing for you?

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: And they do have a strict moral code . . . things compared to Western-type things.

MODERATOR: Can you tell me more about that?

MAN: Conservatism, issues on behavior, just because you're . . . they become teenagers, I've known some of the kids of Muslim people, and, yeah, they're not allowed to do what . . . little leeway . . . freedoms that we have.

MAN: . . . to their diet.

MODERATOR: What? Sorry.

MAN: Oh, that too. Their diet, right?

MAN: They don't eat or drink certain things or at certain times and . . .

WOMAN: No, they don't . . . at all.

MAN: Dress code.

MAN: Yeah.

MAN: Sexuality, for sure.

MAN: But I think everybody's biggest fear is automatically what comes to my mind is that they're too likely to have potential, anti-American, anti-Christian, anti-Jewish attitude.

MODERATOR: Is that in your . . .

MAN: I think what it is you're automatically thinking, they're against me, so there's that little wall . . . perfectly . . . but there is that little suspicion.

MAN: Perception.

MODERATOR: Do other people feel the same way?

MAN: I suppose, yeah.

WOMAN: I know nothing about any of them. I can't judge any of them. That's not fair.

WOMAN: But we do, don't we?

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: I do.

WOMAN: No.

WOMAN: I don't know anything about the Sikh. It's the first time I've ever heard that word. And I'm judgmental about it, and I'll admit it.

MODERATOR: Well, tell me what kind of things you're . . .

WOMAN: Just the way they look like the Muslims. If I was getting on a plane with one of them, I'd be, I'd be cautious.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: I'd be scared. I would think. I would be like, once you're in the plane, there's nothing you can do, and . . . mentioned planes right away. I don't even know why I do that, I mean.

WOMAN: Yeah, you would.

WOMAN: So I don't know. They look like them. Honestly, I could never tell you, I've never heard that word before.

WOMAN: I hadn't either.

WOMAN: I would never know the difference.

WOMAN: I have a best friend that is Muslim. She's from Bosnia, so I don't make these judgments. I can't.

MAN: And they're scrutinized before they even get on the plane, anyhow, so. And we have marshals, federal marshals that are on the planes anyhow, so they've gone through the same scrutiny as you as far as them getting on a plane, their luggage everything about their background, whether they paid cash, who their relatives are, so there's a lot that goes into that . . .

MAN: I don't know much about it either, but are these, the group of the Muslims that were also . . .

MODERATOR: Well, they're not Muslims, just to be clear. Sikh is . . .

MAN: Sikh is different. Okay. But weren't they abused by the Muslims?

MODERATOR: I think there's some history there.

MAN: Something like that. They're not the ones who we associate them with.

MAN: That's the only tiny difference that I know, or I think I know, between Muslim and they're, it seems like Hindu and Sikh seem to be somewhat the same thing, from what I've read about Muslims and in the Quran, they have a little different take on things than more of a peaceful religion and how they treat their women and family and their values or whatever. That's the difference I would see if I were to see the difference between their dress, I can tell, the difference between Hinduism and Muslim. So I couldn't put them on the same thing.

MODERATOR: But can you tell the difference between Sikh and Muslim?

MAN: I would put Sikh and Hindu, due to my lack of knowledge, on the same page, as opposed to a Muslim.

MODERATOR: Interesting. All right. Well, it sounds like not too many of you have had any interactions with Sikh people.

WOMAN: Well, I wouldn't know.

WOMAN: I wouldn't know either.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: Little to none.

MODERATOR: So little to none. I know you hadn't heard that word, Sikh, but you can at least see people wearing turbans? Is there a Sikh community around here?

MAN: Western, or past up there, that's all that kind of Middle Eastern. There's Pakistani, I mean, you name up that neighborhood, close to Rogers Park, it's all . . .

MAN: In the south suburbs too, heavy in Muslim . . .

MODERATOR: I'm going to have you turn to Handout E. This is also going to be a slight challenge. I get that you don't know very much about the Sikh community, and I'm going to give you information but not yet. But I want you to, just based on your general impressions, like you said, you sometimes make judgments just based on look, your gut reaction. I want you to rate Sikhs for how well each of these qualities describe Sikh-Americans. So a zero if it doesn't describe at all, a ten if it describes very well. So take a second, and I'll see if I can . . .

Did you all finish? Don't flip forward. We'll get there. Were any of these easier for you to rate? Did you feel like some of them were a little, you had a better sense, you knew what to put? Would you say that they were all really difficult?

WOMAN: Probably experiences, prejudice, and discrimination . . .

MODERATOR: Oh, that was the easier one?

MAN: More than half of mine are above five.

MODERATOR: And why is that?

MAN: When I think of immigrants, more than likely, it was either very tough for them to come here or make any kind of transition . . . making them extremely patriotic. And also being grateful for the work they may have in this country that they might not have had the opportunity in another one. As far as a hard worker goes, I'd give them an eight. But as far as a good neighbor, I gave them a three, I don't see them as . . . call them communities or whatever, but they kind of stick to their own.

As far as a good neighbor, I grew up in pretty much predominant white neighborhood. But either way, in these suburbs, I don't see them outside playing soccer

with all of the other kids, and maybe that's a religious thing or whatever, that they, within their family, try to more or less keep to their own. I gave it a three. Generous and kind, I said a five, because I honestly don't know them personally. So I'm not going to go one way or the other.

WOMAN: I disagree. I say they'd be a good neighbor, because they kind of keep to themselves. They're not partiers.

MAN: That could be a good.

WOMAN: I don't think they drink at all. My house, our friends and stuff, they'd probably hate us. But I think they'd be good neighbors. They seem to me, and I don't know the Sikhs, like I said, but they seem, if I generalize, they seem anal about their homes in a way, like the Greeks almost, but just what I've seen. So I think they'd be good neighbors. Hard workers, very hard workers. American values, I gave it a five, because I don't know. I think . . . an individual basis.

MODERATOR: So was the American values one, that was a little harder to rate?

WOMAN: Harder to rate, because I think that's on an individual, I think it's an individual thing. The wife might have more American values than the husband would, or vice versa. And then patriotic, same thing. Generous and kind, I say four, because I don't, with my experience with like the Middle East, they kind of don't like us. But I don't know these people. It's an individual thing too. It's hard to rate a group.

MAN: I think it dropped for me as well. They could be a good neighbor . . . they might be fearful not to be. A hard worker, yes, they are. And generous and kind, that's in the middle. Anybody could be anything, I guess. But it takes a nosedive in the middle, the American values and is patriotic. And it's not that they're anti-American, but I think their own country, their own purpose, their own cause, their own agenda, their own religion takes so much priority that I don't think they would ever uphold American patriotism.

MODERATOR: Is there anything you could learn or information that would make you feel like, oh, yeah, maybe I could rate them a little higher. They do hold American values.

MAN: Sure they are. They're hard working, they're well-educated. Timothy McVeigh was an American, and he killed 168 people.

WOMAN: That's a possibility . . .

WOMAN: Well, that's a psychopath.

MAN: Yeah, I know, but that's what you're saying about these people. You don't know these people.

WOMAN: No, I'm not. I would never see them at Fourth of July fireworks, or I would never see them like putting up American flags on Memorial Day or Labor Day or mourning Memorial Day and Labor Day. That's what I feel like when I read patriotic.

MAN: I live on the north side of Chicago, they have the Puerto Rican parade in Humboldt Park, that's Puerto Ricans.

WOMAN: But that's Puerto Ricans.

MAN: I know, but they're Americans, but it's the Puerto Rican flag, you know. Then you have the Spanish, you have the Ecuadorian. I live on the north side of Chicago. You have all kinds of different flags and all kinds of different little parades. They may not be throughout the whole city, but it certainly is on the north side of Chicago.

WOMAN: I love Cinco de Mayo, I love it. I love it.

MAN: That's Chicago.

WOMAN: But they don't have a day here or anything. So I don't see them at Fourth of July things, I just feel like they wouldn't want . . . patriotic.

WOMAN: Their country. So, yes, I think they're very patriotic.

MODERATOR: But not to the United States.

WOMAN: Right.

MODERATOR: Sharon, what did you find the most difficult to rate here?

SHARON: The patriotic. And I think it's because I don't think patriotic is what flag you're carrying. I think that, depending on how you feel about the country, you're raised, obviously, you will get shelter in here. They don't know, maybe, prejudices that other people have against them or how hard maybe it is for a lot of these people not be looked at that way.

So I think that's, they would be patriotic. And I think that maybe their parents would try to raise them because they do hopefully have a good lifestyle that this is a country that they do, because we all have a little flag in our background. That's not what I equate with patriotism. Non-patriotism is to deface this country in some way.

MAN: It may not be easy, but if there was a way that they could show it as a group. It's just something that . . . we move somewhere else. You have to try to assimilate. Right around here in this neighborhood, it's very predominantly Mexican. I work with them all, and there's underlying, in other words, yeah, they work hard, they're here, but they don't really care. They're taking what they can.

They'll say negative, derogatory things. What happens, is it gets ingrained in your mind. I'm not saying that the younger ones, their children growing up are going into the

military, and it's beginning to change. But the guys . . . where I work with, there are little comments made, like, I wish I could go back. And it's not that it's these people's fault, because . . . but it's the association with what happened on 9/11.

Because Indian people, they're up here too, predominantly in this neighborhood too. And I think people born and raised here are looking for is the same pride that maybe we don't always show what we grew up with, anyway, our parents had. My parents came to this country a long time ago. But in those days, they used to tell me, they came here so that their descendants could become Americans.

And you don't see that in the Eastern Euros that are coming here now. You don't see it in the Hispanics, and then these guys, I've got to fight off the other negative imagery. So it isn't easy. And I can't condemn them, but just for the survey purpose, is it still going to be in your head that they've got a little bit of a mountain to climb? Yeah.

WOMAN: Absolutely.

MODERATOR: So I'm going to give you some more information to help fill in the blanks a little bit. So if you turn to Handout F, this gives you a little brief introduction to the Sikh religion and the history and beliefs in India and in the United States. So I want you to read through, and I want you to actively read. So you can write notes in the margin or underline things that stand out to you as really important. Or you can X out things that you think are unimportant. So just read through actively, and then we'll discuss.

Is everyone done reading?

MAN: Just F?

MODERATOR: Yeah, just . . .

WOMAN: Yes.

MODERATOR: What's your reaction to this sheet? So, Nicole, you feel like a jerk. Why is that?

NICOLE: I just say what I say, but, I didn't know anything about them, but it's a lot. And first responders and 9/11 and their faith is rooted in love and equality between women and men. I mean, that sounds like sort of Christianity without Christ. I have a newfound respect for them.

MODERATOR: Other reactions?

MAN: I skimmed through it pretty quick. The first thing that came to my mind was, blah, blah, blah. But not in a negative way, but I think most people are generally good people, that everybody, regardless of race, religion, are good people and look out for the man or woman next to them. So Sikh, Muslim, Christian, whatever, as far as their guidelines or whatever they need to follow . . .

WOMAN: I agree.

MAN: . . . I'm kind of a human nature type. They're looking out for the next person. I think most people in general, from my experience, are like that. And I'm 38, and I have a pretty good, I think, opinion of humans, in my experience. I don't think everybody is out to get me or turn my back to them, hold the door for this person. So it's kind of, okay.

MODERATOR: Dan, right?

DAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: You didn't know much about the Sikh religion before. What did you learn here or like how did this kind of change your view, if it did at all?

DAN: Everybody's got their own beliefs. Everybody can be a good Christian or can be a bad Christian. But it didn't really change anything, I think it's whatever it is. I didn't know, truth. That's one thing I didn't know. And they said they were first responders of 9/11 . . . figure, they were the ones that caused 9/11, but didn't know.

MODERATOR: So just to be clear, the Sikh is different from Muslim. Sharon, what's your reaction to this?

SHARON: I think it reminds me of, just because these people are, these pictures, for instance, that you have here, it doesn't mean, I don't think it means that this religion that they have to . . . this country. I think that the way the religion is explained, this could be anyone. So that kind of stands out in my mind. You can't be specific to look at people and assume they're of a certain faith. It could be just because this religion was started in northern India, the person, we could all . . . Sikhs and no one would know. So I couldn't feel biased at a certain picture, as opposed to . . . know if you were or someone across the table was. It's a religion. I don't think it's a look, necessarily.

MODERATOR: But part of it . . .

MAN: It is the look.

MODERATOR: Yeah, part of their religion . . .

MAN: They said, five different ways to, you can identify them.

MODERATOR: They have the five articles of faith.

MAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: People wear crucifixes . . . wear, symbols of their religions. Some people have bands on their hands because of the ceremony.

WOMAN: You have zealots in every culture and every religion, every society, and it doesn't matter. You could write the same thing about Catholics. And it's just what you're writing on a piece of paper.

WOMAN: There's good and bad in everything.

WOMAN: Exactly.

WOMAN: That's what I try to tell my kids, that the only thing that I don't like is, you be who you want, you have your own choices, your own beliefs, I'm not going to pressure you to believe what I believe, but don't pressure me to believe in something you believe that I don't agree with. I think that they do that a lot, and you have to agree to disagree, or they get upset. That's just based on my experience. I did work for a Hindu company, and my lunches were taken away from me, because they were meat. And I said, what are you doing? We don't eat meat here. I said, well, I'm sorry, I'm American, I eat meat. Then get out, he said. What was I supposed to do, not eat? Yeah.

MAN: Where did they get the facts that they actually helped on the Transcontinental Railroad and that they were for the civil rights struggle? Because any picture that they ever show on TV or the History Channel has got Martin Luther King, Malcom X, Jesse Jackson, or something. I'd like to know exactly where this, these people marched and all that. Could they . . . do you know where they got that?

WOMAN: Yeah, and the first responders on 9/11, where . . . that? What's that?

MAN: Did someone Google this or something?

MODERATOR: Does that mean you're . . .

MAN: No, I'm not. I believe that I'm fairly knowledgeable about how this country was taken away. We lied to the Indians in treaties, all that kind of stuff. And my brother, I was raised by a Marine, my brother is a chaplain in the military, my brother is in the Air Force. I don't ever recall seeing any Sikhs in any photographs or ever hearing any of that. My brother, I was on K.I. Sawyer Base in Marquette, Michigan and didn't see any Sikhs or any, that, this was in the '70s when I was a young kid. But I don't ever recall seeing anyone of that culture or race.

MODERATOR: So that doesn't really ring true to you?

MAN: I just would like to know where you got that information . . .

MAN: Was the migration as . . . back then as it has been in the past 30, 40 years. The Transcontinental, because that was back . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

MODERATOR: Hold on. One at a time.

MAN: I totally see what you're saying.

MAN: Right.

MAN: Was it some movement where they were all involved, or was it like, two guys there, and one guy was a fireman in New York, you know what I mean? And so you can't really judge by this, because I'm . . . be saying . . . people, I'm not. I'm not trying to be prejudiced. There's a bias on my part. I'm just talking about, on the surface because of what they might be going through.

MODERATOR: But that's helpful. So that's not meaningful to you, really.

MAN: I'm not surprised. But anybody can say nice things. Any one of us. There's a lot of Christians or . . . whatever, Jewish people say . . . saying, oh, we did this . . . and they could be perpetrators, because it's not individuals. Because people are good.

WOMAN: We went back to what he said, blah, blah, blah.

MAN: Right . . . it's movements and governments and politics and.

MODERATOR: So this is blah, blah, blah. It sounds like Eric might want to see some pictures and real evidence.

MODERATOR: Like he said, just because I'm reading it doesn't mean I believe it.

WOMAN: Nowhere in our history books were we ever seeing any Middle Eastern people.

MAN: I'd like to see it.

WOMAN: No, he's right.

MAN: Anytime I hear about someone or a particular group of people trying to express what their religion is like, it's always, be nice to the next guy. So no one is saying, come join us, we hang people on Saturday nights, so.

MAN: Of course, we're a friendly religion.

MODERATOR: So are you telling me you're kind of skeptical that this was?

MAN: Well, I just kind of skimmed over it, like, okay, this is their history . . .

MAN: Information. Anybody would put out. The Quran says things like this too.

WOMAN: Sure, it does.

MODERATOR: That's true. All right. Does anyone feel like there's anything in here that's unique, that you might not see in the Quran or in another description of religion?

MAN: There's a part of the Quran that says . . . stand for equality of women. Haven't heard of that in . . .

WOMAN: You don't see . . .

WOMAN: They don't have equal rights for women.

MAN: Period.

WOMAN: I have not seen that.

WOMAN: You walk behind the man, the woman does.

MAN: If you're considered being.

WOMAN: I don't know, maybe that's older cultures.

MAN: Don't see that equality. A wish for welfare for all mankind.

MODERATOR: Did anything, Sharon or Maggie, stand out to you as . . .

WOMAN: . . . denouncing discrimination pertaining to the gender, race, color, creed.

MODERATOR: That feels a little different?

WOMAN: It does . . .

WOMAN: But do you see it? I don't know.

MODERATOR: Right.

WOMAN: It says it welcomes people of all faiths and backgrounds, so that's interesting that it's not exclusive to, I mean, that they . . . welcome other faiths. And usually most religions are exclusive, where they stick to their own. I find it interesting, it says, to the creator. And again, most religions . . . you have Jesus . . . you have Buddha, or whoever you're, I think that's . . . curious.

MODERATOR: I don't know if this is super clear, I know it's somewhere in here, or it should be, that Sikhs don't proselytize. So they don't try and convert people. I don't know if that's a little different than other religions, but it might not have been clear from that. Let's move on to Handout G. And here I want you to just read the first paragraph, and read it the same way, underline things that stand out to you as important.

MAN: What was it, two weeks ago in Chicago, on the south side of Chicago, there was 80 people shot, and 9 people were killed. So this is an example of one person. How many people are in America? Three hundred and twenty million people in America. You got 50%, or how many sheikhs did it say?

MODERATOR: Sikhs.

MAN: Sikhs, 25 million throughout the . . . and how many in America again? Over a half a million. So you gave us three incidents that happened in one of the biggest school systems in America, which is New York, and you have one incident. In Chicago, there's every day, every week people are being murdered and killed, and these are children, 12, 15, 3-year-old being shot. I'm sure these children are having a tough time but . . . the south side of Chicago.

WOMAN: Yeah, absolutely.

WOMAN: No matter your race, your color.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: Everyone is probably judging everyone here too. That's how we are, this is our nature.

MAN: I think in recent years I think kids even in elementary school, junior high and especially high school, maybe it's just me, but they seem like much bigger assholes to each other now than they ever have been. And then add being Sikh on top of that, and . . . watch out. That's what they know, what they can, what's not being reported.

WOMAN: Violence has just increased exponentially anyway.

WOMAN: I think it has a lot to do with the mental health.

MODERATOR: What do you mean?

WOMAN: If somebody is mentally abused to the point where they can't take it anymore, they'll take a gun to anybody. In that way, there could be a lot of mentally ill people out there and not even know they're mentally ill until finally one day they snap.

MODERATOR: What's your reaction to this, saying that Sikh children endure bullying to higher degrees than others . . .

MAN: Well, that's not good.

WOMAN: . . . find that true.

MODERATOR: What do you mean, you don't find that true?

WOMAN: Everyone gets bullied. Unfortunately, little girls, they get bullied, the little boys, they get bullied. It's not based on the race.

MAN: Some are skinny, some are overweight.

WOMAN: Right.

MAN: There's all kinds of bullying, not just because you wear a turban.

WOMAN: Yeah. But because you wear a turban on your head.

MAN: I'm sure there's all forms of bullying, so.

WOMAN: The little redheads were the ones that got picked on when I went to school.

WOMAN: Anyone that looks different is always going to get bullied.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Weak.

MAN: That's how it was.

MAN: Any kind of weakness.

WOMAN: That's it.

WOMAN: Exactly.

MODERATOR: Do you think anything can or should be done about that?

WOMAN: Well, let's stop bullying altogether.

WOMAN: Yeah.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: All bullying, not just them. American children . . .

WOMAN: Accept difference.

MAN: You shouldn't just have a class, just don't bully them because they wear a turban. Like I said, there are skinny people getting bullied, overweight people getting bullied, people that are maybe darker black than the lighter brown . . .

WOMAN: The special kids.

MAN: Yeah, yeah.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: There's all kinds.

MAN: . . . can't touch anybody with a turban. In other words, yes, of course, it's not good that this kind of stuff goes on, but.

MODERATOR: And so I'm understanding, and tell me if you feel differently, like you feel like there should be a general anti-bullying effort.

MAN: Absolutely.

WOMAN: Well, absolutely.

MODERATOR: And Sikhs, you know, the Sikh could be a part of that, but it should be . . .

WOMAN: Oh, absolutely.

MODERATOR: All . . .

WOMAN: Overall.

MAN: It should . . . like the rest of it.

MODERATOR: Right, I got.

MAN: To that mostly. I do think there are a small percentage of people who claim that they've been bullied or whatever, and they're just whiners and complain about every little tiny thing. And I came from a pretty tough family, and sometimes where you just like, you know what, you just deserve to get hit. Did you dress like a moron, not that I would . . . I'm saying, sometimes, like, come on. Quit being so damn sensitive.

WOMAN: I agree.

MAN: You can't whine and complain about everything little thing . . .

WOMAN: . . . way too much sensitivity. We're all tiptoeing around everything we're saying in here.

WOMAN: . . . talking about bullying.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: . . . define bullying.

WOMAN: What would we normally call them? You called them a raghead. I'm saying Middle Eastern, because there's how many countries over there. I couldn't tell one from another, and that's the God's honest truth. Everything you say comes off offensive. I don't know whether I'm supposed to say black, African-American. I don't know who I'm offending. I don't know Japanese from Chinese. And they immediately take offense to that. It's my ignorance. I'm sorry, I don't, you look the same to me. And the same with Sikhs and all Middle Eastern people. I wouldn't know one from another, so I'm not going to make a broad range statement saying I don't like all of them . . .

WOMAN: Would they know between you and me if you're a Christian or a Catholic? No.

WOMAN: . . . white people.

MAN: If you're Irish or she's a Swede.

WOMAN: Or if you're German and I'm Italian?

WOMAN: Well, they wouldn't know.

WOMAN: It's irrelevant.

MAN: They all look the same.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: We talked a little bit about this before, the extra scrutiny at airports. I'm going to ask you to hold back a little bit . . . later. There have been many reports of Sikhs getting extra scrutiny at the airport. What do you think of that, causes delays in travel or suspicious looks from travelers? Some of you mentioned that you feel a little cautious when you see people in turbans at the airport.

WOMAN: Are you saying from them or from us? At the airport, TSA . . .

MODERATOR: Yeah, that they're, what's your . . .

WOMAN: That's a loaded question.

MODERATOR: What's your reaction to . . .

MAN: I don't hear that. I hear, it's the old woman in a wheelchair or a five-year-old girl or whatever. I hear people complaining that, why aren't you profiling like Israel does?

They're the ones, oh, don't search them, because you automatically assume that they're got a bomb strapped to them. Let them go. That's what I hear.

WOMAN: You're damned if you do and damned if you don't. And unfortunately, yes, since 9/11, this is what our country has become. We all get searched . . .

WOMAN: That's what they did to us.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: I have been frequently, and I'm the little old white lady. Why do I look suspicious?

WOMAN: Oh, I get it too.

WOMAN: I'm traveling to Memphis, Tennessee, and apparently I'm some type of threat.

WOMAN: My little . . . from me. It's my hair, what did I do . . .

WOMAN: I want them to stand in the same line that I do and go through the same scrutiny that I do, absolutely, because I'd want to know I'm safe on an airplane. I'm willing to do that. Unfortunately, it is a . . . and stand in the same line.

MODERATOR: What I'm saying here is that they are getting extra scrutiny, not the same.

WOMAN: You're saying they are?

MODERATOR: Yeah.

MAN: Oh.

MODERATOR: I'm saying that there are reports of people . . .

WOMAN: I think I can understand that.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: We profile the Hispanics more, because I worked at the international terminal, Terminal Five. They had knives in their boots, their belts, their hats. So to me, I'm going for the Hispanics, those are the ones that were kind of . . .

WOMAN: It was proven, correct?

MAN: It was. We caught them with all kinds of sneaky little . . .

MODERATOR: What do you think of Sikhs getting extra scrutiny at the airport?

WOMAN: I do believe it, but I think it's because of the 9/11 that happened, that I do walk into the airport, I'm like, I think they better check him, just based on the appearance.

MODERATOR: So you think this is kind of the right approach.

WOMAN: I'm already afraid of flying, so then when I see them on the plane, I want to sit next to you.

WOMAN: I want the old white guy searched though too.

WOMAN: Yes, absolutely.

WOMAN: When I was on my way to Mexico, I was like, thank God . . . next to me. Find out he's a brain surgeon . . . he was on call . . .

WOMAN: You usually don't talk . . .

WOMAN: I talk to everyone. I can't . . .

WOMAN: No, they don't talk to us. They're very quiet.

WOMAN: I know, because I don't know the people who live three houses down from me. I don't know if they're Muslim, Sikh, or whatever.

MODERATOR: So I'm curious about something. I know you don't know Sikhs personally. Let's say you did, say, one of your coworkers was Sikh. So you had a nice, friendly relationship. And he tells you he travels a lot for business, and he tells you that he constantly has to deal with this extra scrutiny at the airport. You have good relationship with him. What's your advice to him?

WOMAN: A stranger next to us in the plane?

MODERATOR: No, no, no, this is your, imagine that you have . . .

WOMAN: It's a friend.

MODERATOR: A colleague, a work colleague.

MAN: Sorry about that, man.

MODERATOR: He's not your best friend, but...

MAN: Take the turban off when you go to the airport . . . Ahmed, whatever his name may be.

WOMAN: I'd feel bad.

MAN: I'd have to say, I'm sorry, but that's the way it is.

MAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: We're all . . .

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: Sorry. Look more American.

MAN: I can't, you know.

WOMAN: Smile.

MAN: Everybody else, you know, perceives it.

WOMAN: I'd feel bad for them, don't get me wrong, if it was my really good friend. But it's obviously what they wore or how they looked that day. There's nothing I can do. It's not as if I'm going with them to the airport going, smile, don't put that on, and take that off. It's all how, it's all their skin, their coloring.

MAN: Yeah, the very dark eyebrows . . . sometimes.

WOMAN: That's how they look, and we're all, how many people died in 9/11? No one will ever forget that day. We're never going to forget that day. We're terrified. I am. But I do have a really close friend who's getting married to my white friend, and she's Indian. And they're the nicest people ever. But you don't know who's next to you, behind you in the security line. You don't know them. You don't know them. So we stereotype because of what we've been through.

WOMAN: Previous history.

WOMAN: It's our nature. We're protecting ourselves.

MODERATOR: Karen, what would you tell your work colleague who says, I have to endure a lot of extra scrutiny?

KAREN: It would really depend on how good the friendship was, because I am not a trusting person to start with. And based on different situations, but it would really have, and I think I'd have to know the family too. I'd really have to have a very close relationship with them.

MODERATOR: So if it was just kind of like a . . .

KAREN: It was just casual every day?

MODERATOR: What would you say to them then? Even if it's casual every day? Would you have any advice?

KAREN: I don't know.

MODERATOR: I want you to now read the second paragraph, if you haven't already.

WOMAN: G?

MODERATOR: Yeah, of G. So read through, and then we'll talk about that real quick. What's your reaction to this?

MAN: It doesn't surprise me. Some people don't know, wouldn't know the difference between sheikh and Sikh. To me, religiously, it appears that they're two different things, but I got the whole Middle Eastern stereotype.

MAN: Oh, with the Sikh, I didn't know. I thought he was a Muslim. My mistake.

MODERATOR: Len, what's your reaction to this?

LEN: Pretty simple . . . group leaders, how they can do it. They have the association with the negatives . . .

MODERATOR: So let me ask you then . . .

LEN: Okay. If somehow we went to war with Mexico and everybody became anti-Mexicans, and I'm a Puerto Rican guy or a Cuban guy, and I'm discriminated, I got to somehow say, no, I'm not them.

MAN: That's exactly . . .

LEN: It's as simple as that. They have to find a way to separate their image, that just because I'm wearing a turban doesn't mean . . . there's any guarantee.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

WOMAN: They put the Japanese in internment camps.

LEN: If I'm just looking this over, and somebody says, what do you think I ought to do, and I'm an advisor, it's pretty simple. If you intend to stay here, you're going to have to find a way. It's being assumed that we're like those guys, well, then you have to find a way to disassociate the public opinion that you're not one of those guys. How you go about doing that, I don't know.

MODERATOR: Sharon, what do you . . .

LEN: I can't walk around, I guess, with a label that says, I'm Sikh, I'm not . . .

MODERATOR: Also, we saw, not very many people know what Sikh is. Sharon, what's your reaction to this? Does it have any like significance or meaning to you?

SHARON: Who are these guys or those guys? Or when I thought about the bullying, my son has always been bullied at school, and he's still bullied. And I think a lot of these prejudices come from the parents, and then the children are hearing and seeing just a lot of people, we don't know, and we say things and do things.

And so I don't think people should have to disassociate from what their beliefs are, that they should not be afraid to go practice wherever they want. That's what this country is built on. So I don't think anybody should have a sign on them that says what they do or don't do, or I'm not with you, or I'm with you and then you're protected. It's hard for me to . . .

MAN: I don't tend to disagree exactly with that, but you...discipline your own child. So your child has his own mind. My 17-year-old son thinks he can beat me up and, you know, just, he's smarter than me, and he's all this, that, and the other thing. And I was raised by a Marine. We got hit by teachers when I was a kid. And there are some people my age or maybe slightly older, so that's the way it was when I was in school. I'm 50 years old. Teachers could hit you. And if your parents found out, they might hit you again. You can't touch the children, he can sue you.

So I'm not so much that it's the parent's fault. It's just that you can't discipline a child, he has his own mind, his own thoughts. And if they want to bully people and you can't tell your child so much, like parents said, oh, well, she tried to steer her children in the right direction and says, don't tell me to believe that I should do this or that. I'm the parent. Well, you can't tell your child, this is the way that you should do something. What are you going to do?

WOMAN: Your footsteps though. This, to me, is a hate crime. Like . . .

WOMAN: I teach my kids, like the first thing, like there was a couple of gay kids in seventh grade at, where my kids go to school. And I'm like, you just, you know, don't say anything about it. Just go to school. And, you know, so that's . . . the gay thing, that's within our country, the white, gay, you know, don't judge them. Then there's this, where . . . million years, I would beat the crap out of my kids, 17, 18, 19, I don't care. If they do it under my roof, I'd beat them. And they're bigger than me. But, you know, I just, I think, yeah, it's part of the upbringing. But also, yeah, educate them at home in telling them . . .

MODERATOR: So how do you, so that is an interesting idea. But like how do you get the parents to educate?

WOMAN: Well, it starts with number one, but I don't know. I mean, I don't know.

MAN: There's a lot on our plates already.

WOMAN: There is yeah.

MAN: . . . like a PTA meeting and say, well, this is for the Sikhs. You know, there's tons of other issues and problems. Like I said, the shootings on the south side. But yet we're just going to address this issue above these . . .

WOMAN: Yeah, I don't think we can . . .

MAN: . . . or just a small group of people. You know, that's very, I would think that's pretty hard.

WOMAN: We can't just . . .

WOMAN: There's a lot of minorities within our own country.

WOMAN: . . . we need to, yes, start teaching the kids in school all about prejudice, whether it is religion or whether they . . .

WOMAN: Gay.

WOMAN: . . . or black or anything else, Muslim. And again, you're going to find good and bad in everything.

WOMAN: The blacks are still struggling.

WOMAN: Well, these guys it's gun killings.

MAN: Exactly.

WOMAN: And they're stereotyped all the time.

WOMAN: Yeah, exactly.

WOMAN: And profiled all the time.

WOMAN: Yeah, they are.

MODERATOR: So tell me a little more about, I guess that what you're saying is, everything needs to be addressed, it shouldn't be singled out. What do you think can or should be done? I mean, like, yeah, it should be addressed, but how? What do you do?

WOMAN: Explain to your kids, like . . .

WOMAN: First year of my daughter's birthday party, and I invited everyone in the class. Some people I'd see like, I don't want to invite this Hindu, I don't want to invite this Chinese boy. My daughter is like, Mommy, I don't want anyone to feel left out. I'm going to invite everyone, even though I'm thinking like, okay, it's 30 kids, it's going to be a lot. Better be no. All the kids showed up, the ones that I already figured were, none of the Indian kids showed up to the party, which is fine. I believe everyone has beliefs. I'm sure they think like, you shouldn't be partying, you shouldn't . . . anything. Just focus on work. And that's what it is.

MODERATOR: All right. Anyone else have any ideas? Like how do you think the Sikh community, you know, say, again, you have a friend, colleague, Sikh. And they're active in their community, and they want to do something about this. What do you tell them? Do you have any advice for them?

WOMAN: Just education. We're seeing commercials now that are difference in people. Good.

MODERATOR: So you want to see some commercials?

WOMAN: Just more of that concept, not just more Sikh. It's everybody.

WOMAN: Yeah, yeah. More of them interacting with us.

WOMAN: . . . together. Just, we need to get along.

MAN: . . .

MODERATOR: Tell me more about that.

WOMAN: Well, then, like she says, interacting with us. Like, you know, I don't know how different the Sikh are from Hindu and Muslim. But some of them really separate themselves from us. Like they're . . .

MAN: They're all . . . subdued.

WOMAN: Especially the women. To us women, forget about it. Like really rude, really . . .

WOMAN: . . . is a stranger only makes you look more suspicious. So if they . . .

MAN: And if you watch baseball, there's Americans, they're from the Dominican Republic, they're Cubans, whatever. No, I'm saying is that you have integration in certain aspects of our society of people that integrate real well. And then you may have some that don't. But like Nicole said, maybe you get a softball team, and half the Sikhs and half the whites or something, you know what I mean? Somehow you have to get them involved in the community too. Like someone was saying, the neighbor you don't know

nothing about because they are very private and very religious. Well, if you're going to segregate yourself from us as a society and as our culture, what are we supposed to do?

WOMAN: Exactly.

MAN: We're trying to integrate . . . to our, you know, like I said, into our, block parties or into our festivals or whatever it is. Then you have to participate also.

WOMAN: That's exactly, I would never let my kids ever say anything rude to any Indian person that looks like that, because we don't know . . . Sikh, Muslim. But they're not friendly back.

WOMAN: I think that . . .

WOMAN: . . . why should I be nice?

WOMAN: I think they're not friendly because they don't want to . . . they're maybe afraid that we're going to push them or give them a taste of the like American way. So they're like, no, no, no, no, no, we want to live here, we don't want to have your way.

WOMAN: Especially the men.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: . . .

WOMAN: We want to live here, but we don't want to see anything your way.

MAN: We don't want to corrupt you or . . .

WOMAN: Well, they see American . . .

MAN: You're not operating a . . . man, just come to the party.

MAN: Yeah, exactly.

[Simultaneous discussion]

MAN: . . . whatever salad or.

MODERATOR: They're not all vegetarians, but . . .

MAN: Well, whatever. Well, you know, I meant, that was my example. It's nothing like that . . .

WOMAN: . . .

MODERATOR: Let's turn to the next handout. Now I think this one, Handout H, just to be clear, I think it has six things, six messages. I want you to read through each of these and rate them for how much it helps you understand and relate to Sikhs and the Sikh community. So zero does not help, ten helps a great deal. Once you've read through and rated all of them, I want you to star your favorite. So rate each one of these messages on how much it helps you understand, yeah.

Has everyone rated and starred?

MAN: I've got two more.

MODERATOR: I want to start by going around and having you each tell me the number of the one you starred.

MAN: Starred?

MODERATOR: Yeah, you were supposed to star your favorite one.

MAN: Oh, my favorite?

WOMAN: Four.

MAN: Three.

MODERATOR: We'll start on this side.

MAN: Okay. Three.

WOMAN: . . .

WOMAN: Three.

WOMAN: Four.

MAN: . . .

MAN: I really don't have one.

WOMAN: Two.

MAN: Which one, the first one?

WOMAN: You're starring them, which one . . . the best.

MODERATOR: You're supposed to star . . .

MAN: Oh . . . one.

WOMAN: Yeah, one.

MAN: And . . . and the second one, I'll give an eight.

MODERATOR: No, I mean, I don't want you to rate each one individually. I just want to know what your favorite one is of the six.

MAN: Oh.

MODERATOR: I mean, you should have already rated them.

WOMAN: Four.

MODERATOR: Hold on. Karen, what did you say?

KAREN: I didn't understand . . .

MODERATOR: Nicole said four?

NICOLE: Four.

MAN: I said four.

MODERATOR: And you said four. Go to four. So those of you who said four, what stood out to you here, and why do you, why was that your favorite?

MAN: Contribution.

MODERATOR: Others who liked four a lot?

WOMAN: Okay. So I liked four because, yeah, I understand that . . . they came from, they're immigrants and they came to America to better their lives. But so . . . it's like a lot of other people have. My parents came from Poland, and they did excellent for themselves. So, yeah, they could become the CEO . . . the MasterCard, they could be . . . they could be anything that they wanted to do. So I like that one the most.

WOMAN: That doesn't describe them to me though. And that's why I liked number two, because it was describing them as a people so that I could understand about them.

MODERATOR: So . . .

WOMAN: This is supposed to be helping me understand who they are?

MODERATOR: Yeah. And, well, I, the star is just your favorite.

WOMAN: That's . . . number two does this more than . . . yeah, number two did that more than any of the others. Just because they could become an engineer, doesn't mean they're going to.

WOMAN: Oh, absolutely.

WOMAN: But now I know why they're wearing a turban.

WOMAN: Yeah, that's . . .

MAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: Wait, tell me, number two, which one was your favorite, number two?

WOMAN: Number two.

MODERATOR: And that was because?

WOMAN: It explains about them more than anything else. You know, I was completely ignorant. Just because you look Middle Eastern, I don't know what you are. I don't know what religion, I don't know what country you're from. This helps explain it. It explains.

WOMAN: Yeah, I'd have to agree, number two.

MODERATOR: You like number two.

WOMAN: . . .

MAN: Yeah, I . . . star them both. I agree with that. I, just because I didn't know anything about them. And good to know. Not I've got a little piece of knowledge that I didn't have coming in here.

WOMAN: Right.

WOMAN: Right.

WOMAN: It's just like the wedding rings for us. Most people, if they're married, well, they have a wedding ring on, so . . .

MODERATOR: Is there anything in two, like about the turban that really stood out?

WOMAN: Well, it's, yeah, it shows that they are more devout and willing to support their cause, maybe, not necessarily in a negative way.

MAN: But it also specifies that they're going to protect all people against all injustices. So that's what sticks out to me is the fact that, whether you're black, white . . . whatever, they're not going to discriminate against you. That's the way I see that. They're not going to hold any injustice against me. So that's what I see in that.

MODERATOR: We talked about four too. The, who did three?

MAN: I did three.

MODERATOR: Three, why . . .

MAN: Well, I thought it almost described . . . more than Linda said, because it talked about the women be treated equal. They came here to better their lives through their own efforts, defend themselves against oppressors. They practice religion freely. They're not trying to put their religion on us. And, you know, they're protecting the rights of others, including Hindus, Christians, Muslim. Like I said, they don't discriminate against anyone, according to these facts, or these printouts.

MODERATOR: Who else put three as their star? Sharon, why did . . .

SHARON: Probably for the same reasons. And it's interesting, because it's not a specific religion. It's a supporter of other religions . . . so I find that interesting. I mean, they've, and so they've fought and given their lives to protect the rights of others to practice their own religions, that's pretty amazing.

MODERATOR: Did other people underline anything in here, even if you didn't star it? Did anything . . . didn't really work for some people?

MAN: Honestly, reading through all six of them, I'm a skeptic of pretty much everything I read first, second, or third time through based on sources, so I, you know, this handout, I could be like, okay, I don't know where they got their facts or whatever, their resources. So based on this, you know, going along with it, this is what I got out of it. But, you know, like I said, I'm not a believe-everything-I-read type of . . .

WOMAN: You don't feel any more educated after those two hours than you did when you walked in.

MODERATOR: You don't feel like you learned anything?

MAN: Some, you know.

MODERATOR: Did any of these really fall flat?

WOMAN: One.

MAN: . . .

WOMAN: They're not comparison . . . they're just not.

MAN: Yeah, I don't quite get . . .

WOMAN: I mean, like the Irish and Italians. I'm Italian, there's just no way. I'm sorry . . .

WOMAN: That's how I felt about four.

WOMAN: . . . I wasn't born, I was born here, but no. See, and four was my favorite. Four felt like that was facts, that could be facts. The rest of them didn't seems like . . .

WOMAN: . . .

WOMAN: No, but there was, this, but there, okay, but . . . like the American story, Irish and Italian. Number two . . .

WOMAN: It didn't help me to get to know them.

WOMAN: Well, getting to know them was supposed to, we were supposed to be getting to know them?

MODERATOR: Or relating to and understand.

WOMAN: I think . . . four was the one that was the most believable to me. The rest of it . . .

MAN: And that they know the United States is the greatest country on earth, and they're proud to call themselves Americans? I've never heard that.

WOMAN: No.

MAN: We're seeing it, you never see any commercial on TV like that.

WOMAN: No.

MODERATOR: If you did, would you believe it?

WOMAN: No.

WOMAN: No.

MODERATOR: So like, even if you, so if you saw a commercial with a Sikh man or woman saying that, you would just not believe it?

WOMAN: No.

WOMAN: . . . said the same thing about Puerto Ricans, and I live close to here and find the same to be true with the Europeans.

MODERATOR: Well, I'm curious then, what would it take?

MAN: Well, the Polish community in Des Plaines, yeah, I mean.

MODERATOR: Hold on though. What would it take then for you to feel like it was true, like?

MAN: If I saw a lot more of it, you know.

MAN: There's only one woman that's the head of a big corporation, that's Ford. Isn't it Ford, I think? She was just in, now she's . . .

WOMAN: GM.

MAN: Or, that was, which one, is it GM?

WOMAN: GM.

MAN: Okay. Well, it's a big *Fortune 500* company, and they've got 20,000, 30,000 employees, whatever. Let's see these people and have something like that with our values and our core interests and have that person, you know what I mean, have that person out there that we all say, okay, well, we all like baseball, we all like football, and this person is the star quarterback, or they're the owner, you know, something more like that.

MODERATOR: Well, one of these facts has that the, that there's the CEO of MasterCard is a Sikh.

MAN: Well, I've never seen a commercial about that.

MAN: . . .

MODERATOR: But, I mean, do you care about that? Because you mentioned CEO of a big major, a major . . .

MAN: Well, I mean, there's a finally a woman, and now we know that. But it's not, it wasn't so much public before. I mean, sure, there's women in probably maybe other smaller little companies, whatever. But now that was kind of a big thing just a year ago . . .

WOMAN: . . .

MAN: The public, on the idea that hate crimes is wrong, is good, that these people don't deserve to be discriminated against or that . . . that's all correct. You'll sell that to the people. But the whole idea is being to look like, oh, hey, this is why you should like me, because we're this and we're that. That's not going to . . . that will never cut it.

WOMAN: No . . .

WOMAN: . . . how about MasterCard . . .

MAN: You can't sell people, like, hey, everybody, you know what you should begin doing today? Start liking some Sikh people. See, that's like . . . kind of . . . a little bit. In other, we're not selling them to people.

MAN: It's counterproductive, you're looking at them as separate or special, you're right back at square one. It's like, you know.

WOMAN: It goes against every . . .

MAN: . . . the Italians, the Irish were all discriminated against, and they came here to . . . their own neighborhoods.

WOMAN: Absolutely.

MAN: But with time, as things worked out and you assimilate, hopefully the discrimination will end, so you educate people not to just pick on these poor people. But, yeah, I can't sit there and say, oh, wow.

WOMAN: They asked me on the phone interview what nationality I am, and I said American.

MAN: That's not the way, whoever is doing the survey wants to find out, yeah, you're not going to sell the idea on, well, look, we're this, we're that. You should accept them, because they're this and they're this . . . is . . . to begin with. Hey, how come I . . . well, wait a minute, you don't want to me for, to hire me for a job. Yeah, but I'm a nice guy, and I do this.

MAN: Yeah, maybe show . . . integrated with others that supposedly are associated as Americans. You know, show them working with others like . . .

MAN: Yeah, you know, I will say something on their behalf. Yeah, now when I read this little portion about Allied invasion, they . . . really with us, they were part of D-Day with the British Army.

MODERATOR: Well, I want to, no one chose the military one . . .

MAN: No, I think back to stuff I've seen in . . . yeah, they did fight. But they were somewhat under British rule, as all India kind of was for a long period of time.

MODERATOR: So I'm curious though, because no one chose that one, what you think Sikhs serving in the U.S. military. I don't know if you noticed the Sikhs . . .

MAN: The only . . .

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: The only . . . zone. That's not a whole platoon. A whole brigade of people.

MODERATOR: No, I know, but what do you think Sikh people serving in . . .

MAN: Hey, he's fighting for our country, he's . . .

WOMAN: Oh, yeah.

MAN: . . . for his family as well as ours.

WOMAN: If you've got it, you can use it, put it to use.

MAN: Yeah, but . . .

MODERATOR: So, and, I mean, they're obviously wearing turbans here. You might not know this, but you have to get, you have to apply for a special exemption, a religious exemption to be able to do that, because, you know, normally the . . .

MAN: I was going to say, I've never, I was in the Marines. I'd never seen that before.

MAN: Well, my brother . . .

MODERATOR: These pictures are recent.

MAN: Okay.

MODERATOR: I don't know . . .

MAN: My brother is a chaplain. He's the only one in the military that can't carry a weapon. So he has to have someone like him, a Marine, that's a sergeant that guards him so he can never get captured or whatever. But he made a covenant, this is a personal story, that if he was to be captured . . . that the sergeant . . . that's a covenant that he made. That's just something that happens, you know. So there's a lot of things that, you know, like you say . . . doing that. Maybe that is integrating them more into our society . . . be more acceptable to a lot more people.

MODERATOR: What was your, what do you think of Sikhs serving in the military?

MAN: You know, that's, more power to them. I had some, maybe a handful of Native Americans that were in my platoon. And for them to want to fight for this country that stuck them on the reservations and, hey, you know, outstanding.

WOMAN: I agree.

MAN: I mean, we, they got the worst treatment of all. And if they want to, you know, fight for Uncle Sam . . .

MODERATOR: I'm going to show you something. You guys wanted to see a commercial.

MAN: We did.

MODERATOR: Someone did, I can't remember.

[Video played]

MAN: . . . he said 125. Didn't he say 125? The page says 150. See, I'm not believing them.

MODERATOR: Well, okay . . .

MAN: Did he not say 125? It says 150 right here. I . . . I heard it. Misleading information all over.

MODERATOR: So what do you think of that? I mean . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: . . . more people in it though.

MAN: Exactly. The English was, I mean, excellent.

WOMAN: . . .

MODERATOR: Well, what do you mean, more people?

MAN: Just take . . . the visual, you would never know. I mean, like he said, very, extremely fluent English.

MAN: Like he was raised down the block.

MODERATOR: Well, I think he might have been.

MAN: . . . that's what I'm saying, he might have been . . .

MAN: Who's promoting this . . . advertising. Let them go up there and do the commercial with like Mike Ditka or something, okay . . .

WOMAN: . . . I . . . Sikh would come over, this house, I wouldn't even know. I wouldn't know . . . after here I would know, but.

MAN: It's very well done, and people should understand that.

MODERATOR: Well, tell me, then, what would get your attention?

WOMAN: Like he said, someone American, Mike Ditka . . .

WOMAN: Peyton Manning.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Someone all-American . . .

MODERATOR: Someone who's Sikh, is that what you're saying?

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: I don't know if you guys are familiar, there used to be a receiver for the Cincinnati Bengals, T.J. Houshmandzadeh, who is a devout, whatever, you want, Sikh.

MODERATOR: Did not know that.

MAN: Yeah, that's what rang a bell . . . see him, you know, football, or Americanized type.

WOMAN: Was he advertising an actual product or just . . .

WOMAN: Sikh, Sikh.

WOMAN: See, this is what . . .

WOMAN: Love me, love me, love me.

WOMAN: This is what he was trying to explain. If you're marketing something, go all out and market . . .

MAN: Yeah, I was half joking about it. But, I mean, I can see now, see, they're trying to sell their cause, like, please, I want to be part of you, don't bother me. Well, then it's just a matter of just being able to work your way in. You can't totally sell it full scale. That's

why I was kind of being sarcastic about it. You don't have to enumerate to me what you did . . . just convince us that you're not un-American.

MODERATOR: But did that convince you?

WOMAN: It would help, I mean.

MAN: Yeah, the guy's telling me . . . yeah, I mean, it's a start. I wouldn't say it convinced me.

MAN: It's just like . . . why is it only the Sikh? Why don't you have a gentleman like Charles, an American, and I'm not saying that that guy's not American. But, you know, like I said, integrate them with others. Like they said, a star, have them with a star. You'd remember that commercial, Peyton Manning and the Sikh guy. You'd be like, all of a sudden, oh, you . . . Sikh. Oh, well, what is that? Then it might start a conversation. Then it might start an acceptance. So that, I think that's a great idea, you know. Some familiarity with the American culture, the American society.

MODERATOR: Very interesting.

MAN: Right, and as they become more . . .

WOMAN: Right, just like the Boy Scouts. They could have put a whole troop together instead of just him.

WOMAN: I think there was one on *The Voice*.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: It was the *American Idol*, right on the commercial.

WOMAN: Yeah, they said that in the commercial.

WOMAN: No, on *The Voice*, though, a different show. I think there was one on there.

MODERATOR: Maybe. Don't know. Turn your page to Handout I. This is a repeat. So I want you to, I have dumped a lot of information on you. And you didn't know anything about Sikhs before. But I want you to go through and rate again. And your numbers could be the exact same, they could have gone up, they could have gone down. Just go through and rate those . . .

WOMAN: I know we're really stressing the Sikhs, but I'm finding it, again, with the Europeans, in my neighborhood, they are very cliqueish, we were talking about that earlier, up to the point where they will only shop in the stores that have people that speak their languages. I went to go and apply for a position in one of their stores, and they handed me an application in Polish. This is America. So you have to share with your

community, you have to get out with other people. You don't just shop in stores that are people speaking your language or people that are just your religion or just your color. You mix it up . . . we'll know more about them.

MAN: My wife . . . when we go anywhere with her, they're going to speak their language, which is . . . that's the most predominant language of, in their country. And that's like their national language. But that's just the way the culture is. You know, once I go around her and her friends, they all speak . . . so I just sit there like an idiot, like, okay.

MODERATOR: Well, I don't . . .

MAN: No, no, but my point is, like she's saying, is that, you know, when you come to America, you have to speak English, and that's just the way it is. This is our national language, this is our country. So you should have to learn.

WOMAN: But I think we'll get to know you better if you don't just shop at this store.

MAN: Right, in your own . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: . . . we spoke a different language.

WOMAN: Yeah, you wouldn't want to go to another country not to know something like help, please, thank you, bathroom, phone. You want to know something . . . people don't do that.

WOMAN: It's not just the language, that's not, they all . . .

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Everything, you have to go to other stores, go to different restaurants. You meet more of them. If they're only staying in this neighborhood, how will we ever know anything about them? And we're going to, we're always going to have these prejudices due to our own ignorance, because we don't know them.

WOMAN: . . . that's true.

MAN: Well, and our country is a melting pot. We all know, you know, all these different communities and groups or whatever, where they come from India, where everybody in the country, all the same thing. They come here, and they have, you know, the Polish family down the block, the Spanish, whatever. And, you know, I think that's the whole thing is you want to try to get them melted in to the pot, yet they come from a place that just, so isolated to what they know.

MAN: And that's . . .

MAN: . . . like, holy cow, this is some new . . .

MAN: But that's, when they come here, that's the only people they know, so that is the isolation. That, like I said, my wife, when we go somewhere, it's all in that language.

[Simultaneous discussion]

WOMAN: Who is familiar to you.

MAN: Your own people, exactly, and they're similar to you.

WOMAN: I get the concept. But if you want to fit in, how are you going to do that if you aren't willing to . . .

WOMAN: Go outside the box, your comfort zone.

WOMAN: Mm-hmm.

MODERATOR: So I've given you a lot of information today. And you're probably going to forget a lot of it. But I'm wondering, you know, what are you going to, say, like tomorrow, if someone asked you, what did you do last, yesterday evening, what are you going to most remember from this tomorrow morning?

WOMAN: About the turbans and what they stand for .

MODERATOR: What are you going to remember?

MAN: Well, that they aren't Pakistani, they're not Iraqi, they're not Assyrian, so I'm not going to classify them as one people. So, for me, and I was, you know, at training to do other things, so I do know a little bit . . . but I never did run across the Sikhs . . . so that was, next time, I'll be like, oh, that's a Sikh, that's not a Hindu, or it's not a Pakistani or something. This is . . .

MODERATOR: Maggie, what are you going to remember?

MAGGIE: That they're nice people.

MODERATOR: What gave you that idea?

MAGGIE: Just based on the accept everyone.

MODERATOR: But do you believe that?

MAGGIE: No, because if you don't even see your neighbor who lives three houses down, granted they have a big family because they all live together, they don't play with anyone else, just play with each other.

MODERATOR: Do . . . you and . . .

MAGGIE: I don't know if they're Sikh, I don't know . . . they just all live in the same household. But that's, I guess, someone's religion, that you're mother-in-law, your father-in-law, they live with you.

MODERATOR: Sharon, what are you going to remember?

SHARON: That it's important not to group people together. And I'm really curious about them. I really am.

MODERATOR: Dan, what are you going to remember.

DAN: We talked about Sikhs.

MODERATOR: Are you going to remember anything about Sikhs other than that we talked about them?

DAN: Yeah.

MODERATOR: What do you think you'll remember?

DAN: Well, the commercial we saw, that turbans, they wear turbans because of their long hair.

MODERATOR: Linda, what will you remember?

LINDA: I agree with the turbans.

MODERATOR: Len, what will you remember?

LEN: I've been . . . that they're . . . that they're a free group among themselves, you know. No, that I know that we've said a lot . . . so I think I'm going to ask the Indian guy, why don't these people . . .

MODERATOR: Karen, what will you remember?

KAREN: About the turbans, because I've always wanted to know, really, and I never had the nerve to ask when I got.

MODERATOR: Nicole?

NICOLE: I know what a Sikh is now, and I'm definitely going to . . . look at them differently. I don't interact with a lot of them, but I definitely would look at them differently. And maybe if . . .

WOMAN: Sikhs aren't the only ones that wear turbans, however.

MODERATOR: Right. And, Charles, what will you remember?

CHARLES: . . . maybe some of the details. Honestly, I probably won't take a lot away from this.

MODERATOR: Good to know.

MAN: I think everyone is, agrees that, you know, it's sad that, for people to be discriminated against and abused. And I think it . . . towards who they are. And I think that's the best thing they can do is to get in the minds of the American public, you know, they're not Eastern, Middle Eastern. And they are different, and, because it seems that's what they're saying. We're not, we mean no harm, we want to be American. You're viewing us in a way that we don't deserve to be viewed. And that's the message to get across, and that's . . .

MAN: . . .

MAN: And, unfortunately, it will be a dilemma of some sort, but.

MODERATOR: So I'm going to ask you to do one thing before you go. Can you put your together and rubber band them back up? Thank you guys, so much, for sharing your views. I really appreciate it. This has been a fantastic session, so I really learned a lot.

MAN: Thanks for paying me.