

## 16 Ways of Looking at a Photograph

Class Exercise: Chapter 15, Race, Racism, and Photography

For this exercise, close your eyes. Now, imagine or picture a physicist: that is, what does this person who is a physicist look like? Open your eyes, and write down a sentence or two about what you 'saw' when you closed your eyes. Now repeat the exercise: close your eyes, imagine a gang member: what does this person look like, in your imagination? Open your eyes: write down, very briefly, what you 'saw' with your eyes closed. Repeat the exercise two more times using the terms *economics professor* and *janitor*. Now look at the four sets of descriptions you've written down. **This is private and you should not show it to anyone.** Does this exercise tell you anything about how we stereotype race as identity? Now think back through photographs, movies, advertisements, that you've seen in the past couple weeks. How many times have you seen photographic representations of race that are *different* from the ones you've described in this thought-association exercise? Where did you see those photographs?