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UNESCO Chair
on Visual Anticipation
and Futures Literacy
towards Visual Literacy



TROJAN WOMEN RE-IMAGINED

ACTIVITY 8: THE SEARCH FOR TRUTH

Text Reference

At 06' 18" of the film we hear the question "Truth, where is the truth?". This question is recurrent in the film.

Objective

The objective of this activity is to support learners explore the consequences of the human quest for truth in personal and societal contexts.

Preparation

The instructor informs the group on the objective of the activity. Learners watch the film (17') and take notes.

Instructions

Learners share keywords or phrases that represent their personal understanding of 'truth'. Present to the group conflicting 'truths' about an event (e.g. news articles with different opinions etc.) and encourage learners to analyse the sources, biases, assumptions and underlying intentions. Divide the group into two teams—one arguing that truth is absolute, the other that truth is relative or constructed. Ask them to watch again the film and spot quotes to support their arguments. Lead a discussion on parallels to modern life, such as fake news, cultural biases, or societal constructs. How do these 'truths' shape individual and collective decisions and actions today?

Role-Play activity: Use the theme of the film or any other current event and assign respective roles to learners. Each actor will argue their role's perspective either based on the film, or as agreed with the instructor. A key question to explore is suggested to be "who benefits from believing this version of 'truth'?"



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Indicative Discussion Questions

- ✚ On what criteria do we accept something as truth or not?
- ✚ How does our need to seek the 'truth' relates with our discomfort for uncertainty?
- ✚ How aligning behind rigid 'truths' impacts human decisions and relationships?
- ✚ How can embracing ambiguity foster growth?
- ✚ What limits human understanding when seeking truth?
- ✚ Can truth exist without context, perspective, perception, assumptions or biases? How are they all interconnected?

Outcome

Participants choose either to write a brief reflection entitled "What are the limitations of my 'truths'?" or to create a collage with visuals of 'truths' that shape collective 'truths' and influence decision-making in their society.

Recommended Application of Visual Literacy tools

This activity is mostly compatible with the "Babel", the "Identity Triangle", the "Alternative Futures", the "Frame" and the "Stage" visual literacy tools.

NOTE: The Visual Literacy tools list is accessible at <https://vickykaraiskou.com/> Check the "Visual Literacy" tab and go at the "Visual Literacy tools" page.