

OLC Presentation: Framework for Reviewing Images and Representation

When viewing simulations, avatars, virtual worlds use the following guidelines to determine if it is inclusive and culturally sensitive from a visual and language perspective. These guidelines are not all inclusive, but should give some framework for reviewers.

Value	Description	Example	Image Example
Language is descriptive not judgmental	Descriptions are observable, literal facts. Judgements are interpretations or evaluations based on what the view thinks	Descriptive: "Is this woman dressed appropriately for the lab?" Judgmental: "What's wrong with this woman?"	
Language is empathetic	"The understanding and sharing of the emotions and experiences of another person" - Refrain from passing judgment or being too clinical (unemotional in an emotional situation)	After a pregnant woman learns of her fetus' possible disability, physician gives her options including abortion, a sensitive topic for many students; apply greater empathy in depicting both the doctor's response and her reaction in language or timing.	
Diversity: Gender	Use examples of non-binary genders, and non-stereotypical persons in lead roles	Women seen as doctors, and lead researchers, more androgynous-looking avatars, vary voices in AI voice "assistants" (Suri, Echo)	
Diversity: Family Structure	Use non-traditional single mothers, grandparents, same-sex parents, adoptive/foster families	With reciprocal IVF, one partner's eggs are used to create embryos, and then the other partner carries the pregnancy and delivers the child.	

<p>Diversity: Race</p>	<p>Include a broad range avoiding common stereotypical associations</p>	<p>Avoid stereotypes such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immigrant/hispanic workers in services like hotel cleaning • Asian students always being good in math • Black avatars in criminal activities 	
<p>Diversity: Culture</p>	<p>showing respect to the traditions, beliefs, and communities of people</p>	<p>Indigenous people are shown accurately from a physical perspective, avatars respectfully work with community leaders, and respect environmental sacred spaces</p>	
<p>Diversity: Religion</p>	<p>Include broad examples of world religions respectfully and showing diversity in beliefs among scientists</p>	<p>Scientists shown wearing a cross necklace, kippot or hijab. Discussions of evolution are careful not to offend alternative beliefs, but rather focus on scientific methods</p>	
<p>Diversity: Abilities</p>	<p>Include broad examples of people with disabilities navigating and working in science</p>	<p>Integrate assistive devices to help an avatar communicate with the researcher, or ramps to navigate through narratives</p>	