

Count the F's

Objective:

To illustrate that people see what they want to see; items of prominence catch our attention while seemingly less important items may pass on by.

Procedure:

Pass out face-down copies of the following page to the group. When everyone is ready, ask them to turn the paper over and simply count how many times the letter "f" appears on their sheet. Allow only a minute, and then ask, "How many of you have the sheet with the 3 F's?" (Roughly half the group can be expected to so indicate.) "Who has 4 F's on their sheet?...How about 5?...Does anyone have 6?" (About 50% of the group will see only 3 F's, and approximately 10% will see all 6 F's. The rest see either 4 or 5 on the sheet.)

Alternative:

Ask those with 4, 5, or 6 F's on their sheets to raise their hands and let those with 3 F's exchange papers so they too can "see" all 6 F's. Most will still have a difficult time identifying all 6 of the F's.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why couldn't all of us initially see all 6 F's? (The F in the word "of" sounds like a "v".)
2. Have you observed situations where only the important things get attention? Who decides what's important?
3. How can we persuade people to pay more attention to detail? Is it always important?

Materials Required:

Card or sheet of paper as shown.

Approximate Time Required:

5-10 minutes

Source:

Unknown

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FEATURE FILMS ARE THE RE-
SULT OF YEARS OF SCIENTI-
FIC STUDY COMBINED WITH
THE EXPERIENCE OF YEARS