Discussion Board/ Week 1

- Go to the website presented below
  https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectatest.html
- Click on “Project Implicit Social Attitudes”
- Read the Preliminary Information, then click on “wish to proceed”
- Complete a minimum of three (3) of the hidden bias assessments.
- In your response describe which ones you took, how you felt about the results, and what you believe is accurate or valid about it. Next describe whether these kinds of assessments can be useful and how.

You will find an example of an appropriate post below. Be sure to use outside sources to support your response.

I completed the weapons, career and gender, and race assessments. Actually, I was quite surprised at the results. I had wrongly assumed that I would be more objective and less biased after teaching diversity for so many years. I also thought that after being a professional person for so many years that I would have stopped associating men with professions and careers and women with family - however I am still showing that bias or preference. This seems to be in keeping with the researchers' comments in their preface where they state “Scientific research has demonstrated that biases thought to be absent or extinguished remain as "mental residue" in most of us. Studies show people can be consciously committed to egalitarianism, and deliberately work to behave without prejudice, yet still possess hidden negative prejudices or stereotypes" (Teaching Tolerance, 2016). While I believe the assessments are valid, I still wonder about being right handed and how that influences how you respond (the timing) and if there are other variables not controlled for.

On the other hand, I believe that this moment I am more aware of my thoughts and intentions, and hopefully my behaviors as it relates to being accepting or trying to reject invalid stereotypes that might offend or oppress others. I wonder if taking an assessment like this in high school, or even earlier, might be a great exercise for a social studies class. Especially as a teacher, I should be aware of how my own biases, hidden or not, impact my effectiveness as a teacher and how they may also further limit my students! I read an article regarding this and found a quote that was meaningful: “As teachers, we often believe that we can be “objective” with our students. In fact, many of our teacher education programs emphasize the importance of objectivity in assessment. Although we may try to be neutral, we all have values, beliefs, and predispositions that impact how we relate to others. These assumptions are not necessarily a “bad” thing since they often help us understand unknown situations or try to make sense of what is happening around us. But when our assumptions are manifested as implicit biases that can lead to imposed identities, we often reinforce negative stereotypes and negative school climates without even knowing it” (Hanselman, Bruch, Gamoran, & Borman, 2014).