

What was he thinking?



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Background

In January 2005, Prince Harry attended a friend's costume party, dressed in Nazi German regalia, including a swastika armband. This image was published in Britain's *Sun* newspaper and was quickly picked up by the news media worldwide. His (Prince Harry's) apology: "very sorry if I caused any offense or embarrassment to anyone." "It was a poor choice of costume and I apologize," he added. However, many Jewish groups called for a further demonstration of contrition.

Scenario 1

You've been invited to the same party as Prince Harry and the theme is "natives and colonials". You too wear a costume that is offensive - but to an oppressed group in the United States. So just what were you wearing? Find an image of your costume. Who is the group that you offended and what is the history that led to their response?

Scenario 2

Suppose you are at a costume party and someone dresses in a costume as a Ku Klux Klanman. As a student supporting civil rights what is your personal responsibility and what action would you take to clue this person in? Find 3 images to evoke sensitivity and informative discussion.

Learning Outcomes

- 1) Students will consider and discuss how dress and behavior affect others.
- 2) Students will research the history of an oppressed group.
- 3) Students will examine political correctness versus freedom of expression, exploring an individual's responsibility in a social/public context.