

# Planning Sheet: Identifying and Responding to Bias-based Attributions

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In the video, “[Culturally Responsive Problem Solving, Part I](#),” Dr. Markeda Newell introduces three different types of bias-based attributions that blame students and families instead of focusing on improvements that can be made to the system in which students learn:

- **Untrue Attributions:** The claim or statement made about a student is not true.
- **Unalterable Attributions:** The claim or statement includes aspects of a student’s personal identity or experience which cannot be changed (e.g., the student lives in poverty).
- **Unfounded Attribution:** There is no evidence to support a claim or statement made about a student (e.g., assumptions or beliefs).

Use this Bias-based Attribution Examples and Responses table to reflect on when you may have seen these attributions show up in your own thinking, among colleagues, educators, or educational partners at your school or district. Identify how you might challenge these attributions, and reframe attention to understanding the true root causes of situations to improve the system of student learning at your school or in your district.

### Bias-based Attribution Examples and Responses

| Type of attribution | Examples you have observed | Strategies for challenging these attributions |
|---------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Untrue              | {enter response here}      | {enter response here}                         |
| Unalterable         | {enter response here}      | {enter response here}                         |
| Unfounded           | {enter response here}      | {enter response here}                         |