

Chapter 3
Topic 8 Action theories
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Activity: Media
Symbolic interactionism

Learning objectives

At the end of this activity you should be able to:

- Identify key features of symbolic interactionism.
- Apply symbolic interactionism to everyday life.
- Evaluate the usefulness of symbolic interactionism.

Work in pairs.

A. Watch the clip below and then answer the questions that follow.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jFQIIM8IRZU>

1. What does symbolic interactionism focus on?
 2. What does symbolic interactionism explain?
 3. Briefly outline Mead's teachings.
 4. What are Blumer's three tenets (principles) of symbolic interactionism?
 5. What criticisms of symbolic interactionism are made in the clip?
 6. What advantages of symbolic interactionism are given in the clip?
- B. Using the information from the clip, give your own version of a scenario that can be explained by symbolic interactionism. Use Blumer's tenets to explain your example.