

# Survey Results: People Describing Themselves during Meetings/Presentations

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## Personal Preface

I conducted this informal survey in response to my own discomfort and those whom I began to see on Twitter expressing the same concerns. As someone with a visual disability who has lived with my disability for more than half of my life, I haven't found the need for people to describe themselves to me. While I do eventually recognize people by their walk, stance, and voice, what they are wearing or their hair/eye colour doesn't interest me. I focus on what they say, not on how they look. This preface is my response to my own survey. I am not body confident and having to pick parts of my anatomy to describe to others in a public forum feels like body shaming to me. The fact that some organizations are building this into policy and practice disturbs me as it isolates me as non-inclusive if I don't participate and if I do, I feel uncomfortable and may not be able to focus on what others are saying. I find the same discomfort with pronoun labelling. It is an opportunity for isolation and stigmatizing where these may not have existed for an individual prior to their labelling themselves. It has also morphed into people not using pronouns but labelling themselves as "(disabled)". As someone with or without a disability, I have the right to choose to verbally identify myself or label myself. I'm often criticized for saying that I have a visual disability. My response is that "when I am no longer treated as someone with a disability, I may not identify myself as having a disability." It doesn't matter what we label something, if the underlying response to that label is exclusion, accessibility barriers, and isolation, we might as well use a label people are familiar with and avoid the search for an appropriate placebo.

The responses to the survey have not been edited or spell checked. This is the raw data. It is hoped that by starting a discussion around this trend, that those of us who choose not to participate will be respected.

As an aside, I found some of the comments similar to those we encounter when talking about Alt text for images. In some respects, this survey reveals how difficult it is to provide "Alt Text" for a live person. Is it any wonder that we find it difficult to provide Alt Text for graphics? <smile>

For this iteration of the survey, there is no distinction between those with or without a disability. The intent was to start a discussion of a topic that may be uncomfortable for people to broach.

## Distribution of the Survey

The survey was created in Canada. I used discussion lists like the Assistive Technology in Higher Education (ATHEN) and WebAIM list. These are US based. I sent a link to the survey through the Disability Studies discussion list in the UK.

I sent a link to the survey via LinkedIn and Twitter. For Twitter, I sent a generic tweet followed by tweets aimed at specific organizations on Twitter (Zero Project, Access Israel, US Access Board, AODA Alliance, and the European Disability Forum. ) I

used @mentions for the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, The Royal National Institute for the Blind and several Localised organizations for people who are blind or visually disabled in the UK. I also brought the survey to the attention of the Twitter IDs for Microsoft Enable, Google Accessibility and UN Enable. I tried to spread the link to the survey to as broad an audience as I could.

Based on the results, this is not just a Canadian issue to be discussed, but rather, an international issue.

## Survey Results

The survey was composed of two questions:

1. Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?
2. Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.

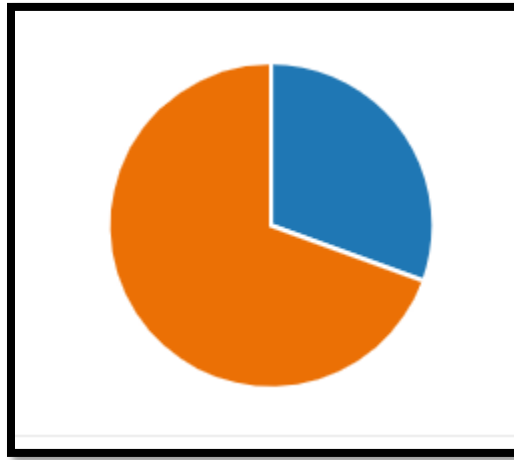
The survey was anonymous.

As the results began coming in, the “Yes” answers were slightly less than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the responses. It wasn’t until 250 responses were received that the “Yes” responses moved to slightly more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  of total responses. The final statistics were:

- Total Responses – 370.
- Yes – 113.
- No – 257.
- Feedback/Comment Total – 304.

Some of the respondents did not provide feedback. In the following table, they are identified with a “NA” in the Feedback/Comment column.

Table 1 Survey results illustrated in a pie chart.



Note: This is an accessible table because I've rearranged the content to have the ID number in the last column. This gives me a column header row that repeats across pages and row titles in column A. For those of us who use adaptive technology, it is easier to review the results based on the Yes/No response and the corresponding feedback. The ID number for the respondent, which is not as relevant, is in the last column and can be skipped if the person reading the results wants to. All cells in the table have content and I have provided a caption for the table.

Table 2 Survey results for people describing themselves in meetings or conferences 2022.

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	As a woman, I'm sensitive to any description that identifies my appearance and age. Women have traditionally been judged and demeaned by their age, weight, physical appearance, attire, hairstyle, race, ethnicity, the size of their boobs, size of their butt, size of their nose...everything. I want to be known by my acts, thoughts, deeds, accomplishments, and how I contribute to society. Who cares what I look like. And I don't care what you look like, either.	1
Yes	Describing as part of introductions can be helpful, even for people who have attention issues, in order to correctly recall who is who later on	2
No	It's absolute nonsense. I will forbid my staff from doing it if they are ever asked to. Is there no limit to the madness of these people?	3
No	Unless it is particularly relevant to the context of the meeting/conference I do not see a need for it. While blind/vision impaired people like myself may require information about content contained in images unless it has some particular relevance I think describing oneself in this way is very subjective and could just lead to awkwardness.	4
No	I think it should be left up to the presenter whether or not their physical description is something they want to include.	5

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
Yes	I really wanted a "maybe" button above. I believe this practice has good intentions but often falls short of them and/or folks over-describe what they normally would not say. A more universally designed practice would ask folks to introduce themselves, making sure to mention any visuals (be in about themselves or their backgrounds) that they want audience members to know who cannot see them. So, for example, if I am on Zoom and have a background image of my organization, that may be good to mention (though perhaps not if I already said who I represent). Or if I wore yellow and blue in support of Ukraine. Or if I am proud of my heritage or history and the role it plays in my presentation/work, I could say. But it seems the relevance to the talk and message is most essential. I should not be left to wonder why the person told me they are wearing a poncho if that's not relevant.	6
No	It is time consuming, makes me feel singled out as if I need extra support to be included in the conversation, and generally makes others feel uncomfortable as well. Generally speaking, what a person looks like has no impact on the topic being discussed. This can open the door for biases to knowingly or unknowingly inter into the conversation.	7
No	While I don't find it helpful, I can't speak for everyone. This is just part of the here and the now.	8

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	I feel like this practice is too selective/subjective. Is it my responsibility to describe myself as fat, or as visibly queer? I try to situate myself in ways that are important, or that make sense, in different contexts; I might say, "as a white woman," as someone with a hearing impairment," "as a queer parent..." but these are not about visibility. My disability is often visible, but not on Zoom. Certainly, I don't think anyone needs to know what I'm wearing!	9
No	This issue has been bugging me for a while, so I am happy to see this survey. I am sighted, but I know many people who are blind and have low vision and they tell me they don't care about a description of me, so I never do it. They want a description of things I am showing, etc. I don't like to describe myself and will only do it when I am asked. It is far more important to speak clearly and describe what you are doing than who you are-unless someone asks specifically for that description, and then I will do it, but I am still not comfortable. I have disabilities, but not a sight one.	10
No	While I appreciate the effort to be inclusive, it doesn't convey any useful information that I need to participate in a meeting. Also, I would struggle to give a visual description of myself if asked to do so and if everyone else is doing it, it would be expected. Also, there is real potential to make people uncomfortable.	11
No	NA	12



Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	While such practices probably come from a good place, I fail to see the benefit, other than perhaps, after learning how someone looks or is dressed, being able to then judge them based on that information, just as the sighted do.	13
Yes	NA	14
No	NA	15
No	Does what I look like make a difference to what I say? Also I find that many speakers give far too much detail.	16
No	NA	17
Yes	I don't think anyone should be forced to do this; however, I don't think there's any harm in people offering the descriptions either, especially since there are enough disabled people who say it is beneficial/helpful to them.	18
Yes	Some people attending may be partially visually impaired but actually, it is up to people identifying with and being qualified as visually impaired to decide on describing themselves or not. They could make a stand and disclose on each event why they are not describing themselves. Practices might then become less normative.	19

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	NA	20
No	This is a great survey. I have a stutter, and although I speak publicly and give presentations a lot in my work, having to introduce myself and describe myself in a meeting induces my stutter and causes me a great deal of discomfort.	21
No	For me, it's a yes/no/sometimes. As someone who is losing their vision, I can't always tell who is who or who is talking. If you tell me you are wearing a bright red shirt/blazer/etc I can pick you out easier (sometimes) from others speaking or afterwards to interact with you more. I find it more helpful when speakers announce themselves (It's Kate...) esp when for some (I'm also losing some hearing/tones) speakers sound similar, at least until I get used to your voice. Hope that helps.	22
No	It usually has zero meaning other than making The Ableds feel like they're doing their bit for us. As usual, they need to stop and ask us what we think, and then actually take that on board. That last part is usually where they have a bit of trouble, because they think they know best.	23
No	NA	24
No	NA	25

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	I liked learning of and practicing saying who you were and your institution when that was encouraged at large events I was at as people who were attending and blind would request that from us. I never felt the need to say, "I'm an aging white guy who is balding with grey hair and I've got a recent scar on my left cheek from Mohs surgery along with a resting pout face that my wife's grandkids imitate when they pose for photographs."	26
No	NA	27
No	NA	28
No	Appearance doesn't matter. I appreciate when someone introduces themselves, if they want to add in their pronouns and share a bit about themselves instead of describing their physical being. We're so much more than that!	29
No	I definately think it can be removed and I would not miss it. I dont see any point in it. And i find that conferences went well without it in the past. Why do we have to continue this practise.	30
Yes	It's a a great recognition of the fact that white is not the default and it allows the exploration of intersecting identities.	31
No	Another gimic by nondisabled to boost their egos.	32

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	I've never seen what people look like, and for me, I'm attending meetings for the information, not to find out what the presenter is wearing or what their hair is like, etc. If it's a personal friend I might find this info more valuable.	33
No	NA	34
No	I am totally blind and while I do care about fashion as it pertains to my own appearance, I'd find it extremely awkward and off putting if someone came up to me at a conference and introduced themselves and described how they looked, what they were wearing etc. it's not natural. Now, if I'm somewhere and I'm talking with someone whose outfit has gotten comments I might ask. But I resent the mindset of blind people that says everything must be described; especially since many have never even seen so they've no point of reference. Please, let me choose what I know.	35
No	It seems too much done for political correctness, rather than compassion.	36
No	NA	37
No	NA	38

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	I can see some value if the description is concise and relevant to the meeting, or if it has some significant cultural meaning to the presenter. If used at all the description should be limited to presenters, who should have been coached about what to include prior to the event, both so they are expecting the request and can prepare so as not to ramble on.	39
No	It is helpful to know about lack of diversity and preferred pronouns.	40
Yes	Stop using the "people with disabilities", we call ourselves Disabled People.	41
Yes	I may interpret a person differently than they see themselves. This helps me see the person as they want to be seen, i do not have a disability. I introduce myself only when requested, new meetings, time is planned, and not repeated in multiple meetings.	42
No	NA	43
No	I have not felt comfortable with what I would call a new practice(last 2 years or so) in my 23 years of working alongside others. I announce who I am, my professional experience, who I work for, etc but don't generally think that race, the color of my skin, the size of my body, the color/style of my hair, or what I am wearing is particularly meaningful or necessary.	44

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
Yes	I go with what the norm is for the group I am in. I can go with or without the visual description. It is nice to hear it, but not a necessity. I am someone that tends to keep their camera off whenever possible. I do have low vision.	45
No	Descriptions are unhelpful, and do not encourage people to provide helpful access, such as describing Powerpoint slides.	46
No	It is awkward; calling attention to the fact that I can't see. Also, I really do not care what people look like. I am blind. I listen to people's voices and their words. Don't waste time on this practice. Why is it important to know what people look like? The answer is that it is not important. Maybe if everyone focused less on appearance, there would be less racism and other visible discrimination.	47
No	I don't ask for it when I meet someone face to face, why would I ask for it in a virtual meeting?	48

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	This self-description drivel is yet another subterfuge conjured up by sighted people who have been infected by rampant oculcentrism and think that those of us who are blind should be as well. The descriptions are invariably and deliberately trite to the [point of vacuity, patronising, colonialising, and time-wasting. They perpetuate a power imbalance because any sighted person can see much more about the person than the person's self-description tells us. It's like they're saying, "here's a crumb for you, but always remember that we have the whole loaf". It also lulls people into a false sense of complacency - they think that by describing themselves they've done their bit for access and inclusion, and don't need to describe the visuals on their slides, or verbalise the contents of their shared screens. Hopefully this egregious meme will vanish quickly into the oblivion that it deserves.	49
Yes	I find it useful if people give some relevant background information e.g. I am a trustee of xx charity and have a background in fundraising. I do not find personal or physical descriptions useful because they are irrelevant and not professional. Also, I have a degree of prosopagnosia (face blindness) so someone describing themselves will not help: I need a visual image to help me recognise them the next time I see them.	50
No	I am there for the information, so telling me you have ## years work experience and where is more valuable to me than any physical description, unless it bears on the material.	51

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
Yes	A brief description including race, and any distinguishing characteristics, i.e. long beard, very large hoop earrings, etc. This helps to not only get a picture of the person and what others may notice first about them, but provides a way for a blind person to give a visual description to someone in order to connect with that person after they've spoken. "I'm looking for the woman wearing the bright orange blouse. I wanted to ask about something she said in her talk."	52
No	Describing oneself is something so foreign as to throw most people off and for others it is the source of real distress, no as even contemplating our own appearance isn't it natural, since, before advent of the Zoom meeting gallery, only time we view our own appearance is when looking in a mirror or other reflection. I feel it is visually biased, assuming that our appearance is so important that those with low or no vision can't function of they don't know what we look like. I'm interested to know how thru feel about it if my assumptions about it not being particularly important to them, are correct.	53
Yes	NA	54
No	NA	55



<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	I think the people doing this are well-intended, but I doubt blind people started this practice. That's usually how it goes. Sighted folks making themselves feel good. I don't much care what people look like. It's unimportant information. When I participate in zoom meetings, I just call in via phone instead of being there "in person." Again, as a blind person, it's all the same to me as long as I can speak up.	56
Yes	I appreciate it because sometimes I remember words more than a quick image of someone on screen. It also helps me know their "social place" or background and perspective that brings.	57
No	It's completely unnecessary and waists valuable time that could be reserved for presentations or questions!	58
No	NA	59
Yes	Yes and no. I think it depends of the situation. Maybe the best way is to ask what people would like.	60
No	<p>How people look is not relevant to what they are going to talk about in 99% of the time.</p> <p>This practice assumes what blind and visually impaired individuals want to know about others - starting by how they look like.</p>	61

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
Yes	Only very shortly, such as race, gender identity and age, I would find helpful, in line with doing pronoun introductions.	62
Yes	NA	63
No	People can feel anxious when describing themselves. When there are lots of people in a meeting, it is unfeasible as it would be impossible to remember who is who. Furthermore, in online meetings, some people prefer to leave their cameras off. I think it would be much more useful if people remembered to identify themselves before speaking.	64
No	Stupid, crazy and like a monkey	65
No	NA	66
Yes	I appreciate knowing what people look like. It helps me see them in my special way	67
No	as a totally blind person I am interested in what the person has to say, not what the person looks like. I also see no point in making ;people feel unnecessarily uncomfortable by asking them to describe themselves.	68

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	Telling me what color shirt they have on is a waste of time. I'd rather the person say something like "I'm 50 years old, weigh 245 pounds, am 6 feet tall and physically out of shape." or "I am described as buxom, with a pretty face and large breasts." I say all of this in complete seriousness. That's the kind of things a sighted person would see.	69
No	As a congenitally blind person, the visual information doesn't mean anything to me. While I can think of a few emergency situations where I may need to have some of this information (I need someone to drive me somewhere and knowing if that person can't drive because he/she is visually impaired could be useful), but the vast majority of the time the visual information is not needed.	70

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	I am totally blind but was sighted until aged 40 years. I have no interest in what people look like. One of the liberating thing about being blind to me is the ability not to judge people by appearances. Being told what people look like draws attention to the fact that I am blind in a way with which I am not comfortable. To me it rather suggests that I have something lacking which other people have. I find this difficult to articulate, but I prefer the term 'blind' to "having sight loss", since blindness is a state which is not relative to having sight at all. To me having sight is not essential, and as I have already implied, is in many ways a disadvantage. The world is sight-centric but most sighted people have no idea how fallable and misleading sight can be and that, anyone who does not have sight is defective or inferior. Having people describing themselves to me strengthens this belief in my view, and gives me information in which I am not merely uninterested, but erodes the advantages which blindness has.	71
No	Describing yourself in meetings waists time, is totally unnecessary, and draws attention to your blindness.	72
Yes	I am autistic and I find that it helps me to see and know the person better. I get an insight into how they see themselves. I do not enjoy being asked to describe myself in this situation as it brings up a million questions. What do I include and how much do I share for example.	73

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
Yes	<p>This is a step in the right direction... inclusion. If we want people to describe content, presentations and in general make meetings and other events accessible, why shouldn't we begin with the introductions. This is not the be all and end all, but rather a part of the overall goal. I think this gentleman makes some valid points in favor of the practice...</p> <p><a href="https://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/2022/04/12/making-a-case-for-self-description-its-not-about-eye-candy/">https://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/2022/04/12/making-a-case-for-self-description-its-not-about-eye-candy/</a></p>	74
No	<p>It's not specifically relevant to meeting my access needs. However, it does introduce an additional barrier for me (additional communication and exertion required) which risks energy not lasting for full meeting/event. I'm also not sure I know how to describe myself; at best it feels very exposing; happy to do so to relevant individuals but not a whole meeting. Plus I've never come across info making clear what information is useful for access, so people tend to bumble around in self-describing without necessarily giving useful or relevant info. Given how subjective/inconsistent the descriptions are, it often function more about introducing yourself (not just your appearance) to meeting as whole, rather than to participants who are blind/VI, and/or a psychological set piece about what you choose to include/exclude and the impact it has on you. So I'm way from convinced, but would like to know more about blind/VI people's perspectives, including what it does/doesen't do, and what value it does/doesen't have - not in order that they are required to justify it, but so that, if it's to be done, it's done usefully.</p>	75

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	The practice is socially abnormal and further separates us from greater society. It provides little information that is truly useful.	76
No	In my mind, it doesn't matter what you look like on the outside, it's much more important than what you look like on the inside. In other words, it's more important to judge a person by the Way one acts and says.	77
No	I am a blind person and find it distracting from the purpose of the meeting / session.	78
No	I guess for people with full visual capabilities, physical appearance can provide subtle additional info about the person talking. But I think that is kind of secondary (we have been using phones, or having video calls with cameras off for a while). Putting it at the forefront at the beginning of a meeting feels forced, and maybe not that useful for a visually impaired person that first it may build a mental image that doesn't match the reality, but also will be missing a lot of continuous visual signals (like body language) that can be even more important than just physical appearance	79
No	I do not have any vision and what they look like does not matter. A person's will not enhance the experience of the meeting or event. I feel it is a waste of time that makes the speaker feel better by pandering to persons with disabilities.	80

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	Physical descriptions should be offered if they are relevant to the conversation.	81
No	The practice has been promoted by the cross-disability community, not by organizations of blind people, ourselves, thereby violating the principle of "Nothing about us without us." Although an occasionally, interesting visual fact is shared, that does not make it a generally useful or appropriate practice. It is usually wasteful of time, unless related to the topic of the event, since it is arbitrary how a person describes themselves, not necessarily telling what might be most visually noteworthy to sighted people. The good intent should instead be channeled into making the full content of presentations, such as slides, to be nonvisually accessible.	82
No	It takes up time and does not provide context of value to the meeting. In fact it could detract from effective interaction if it creates an image of a person that is negative. As a total I already build an image based on voice characteristics. That image is not a picture since I have been blind most of my life. It is more like a profile of the person. Are they well educated? Are they young or old? Are they friendly? Are they in a good mood? Hearing them describe themselves in terms of how they look is a distraction and could clash with the profile I've created from the voice.	83

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	It makes no sense to do that, even in real life I can't see them anyway. What difference does it make? Also, it does take up too much time and it's just not useful.	84
No	Perhaps your first question should've been to ask if the person answering the second question was blind or had low vision vision impairments.	85
No	I've been totally blind all my life and honestly don't give much thought to what people look like, especially work colleagues or others I don't know well. Taking up time in a meeting for this practice is unnecessary and a waste of time. Also I'm concerned about how people might feel trying to describe themselves, especially if they feel some shame about their bodies. Also if I'm the only blind attendee, it calls attention to me which is unwanted, especially because I don't find this practice helpful or necessary.	86
No	In most cases I don't find it brings anything to the meeting and is not a productive use of time. I would prefer any shared documents notes contact information should there need to be follow up be shared.	87
No	This is not just a concern for individuals with visual impairments. Individuals with anxiety, image concerns, etc. may not feel comfortable doing this as well.	88



<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	It may be helpful at conferences when there is one key speaker, and only if it is helpful in contextualizing the message (i.e. educational background, experience, networking, etc). In a meeting, it is awkward and takes too long, and doesn't really help with the task at hand.	89
No	I find as a blind person I feel nervous if asked to describe myself. I also don't remember what people tell me or what they say about themselves. I have been blind since birth. If there is something important I should know, (say they are a visible minority and what we are discussing is relevant) then they could just mention it in the midst of our discussion. I do feel this takes too much time at meetings or presentations.	90
No	The descriptions are irrelevant and nearly always either uninteresting or just silly. If you insist on describing yourself, give me the average stuff I'd get if I could see you. Otherwise, don't bore me.	91
No	It's just plain silly.	92
No	As a practice, it is unnecessary and a waste of time.	93

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	<p>Lack of descriptions removes any tendency to stereo type individuals based on their physical characteristics, such as color of skin, weight, height, ... Any many ways it would be good if sighted people couldn't see the characteristics of others.</p> <p>What, as a blind person, I do appreciate is that each person repeat their name before they speak, especially if they are new to me. People do not seem to understand that their voice is not unique.</p> <p>On initial introduction it can be nice if they state their preferred pronoun, so when I speak I can use this preferred pronoun (she, he or they).</p>	94
Yes	<p>I find it helpful as an icebreaker activity, but I would change the vocabulary. For example, "Please tell us about yourself" ( What are your interests, hobbies, or area of study?") or sharing in some manner, but not focusing on the physical self. If I was shy, however, like I was when I was a young girl, I probably would not like the activity as much. You can also use a tech tool for students to anonymously state instead of personally in front of the class.</p>	95
No	<p>Sometimes it feels like it takes so much time. And I'm not super comfortable describing myself even as a sighted person. Everyone makes their own assumptions about people. What I look like does not impact the content I am sharing. If it had anything to do with content, then Yes, it would be relevant to share.</p>	96

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
Yes	While it is helpful, most presenters provide way too much information.	97
No	<p>Most of my online meetings are not likely to result in me ever meeting this person more than once.</p> <p>The description takes up valuable time that I could be learning or working on another project.</p> <p>I do not tend to walk up to a person and expect them to start describing themselves before talking.</p> <p>Most of my meetings they switch from viewer to PowerPoint so the person is no longer on the screen.</p>	98
No	It takes too long and I really don't care.	99

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	I've been going to meetings of various kinds for nearly fifty years and have never ever once wondered what presenters or other participants look like, which is why I perceive no difference between attending meetings in person and by wire. I don't use or own a camera, and even though I have a screen, I generally don't enable it because what it presents to me is of no use or value. Unfortunately, those without visual impairments with whom I meet by wire sometimes object that I don't have a camera, but they soon get over it. I grew up in the age of no video and poor-quality conference audio. I'm there to talk and listen, and nowadays maybe show a presentation, but I need a screen or camera for neither of those things. Call me blind to the social aspects of all of this, and you'd probably be accurate.	100
Yes	I do find this helpful when initially meeting contacts. It gives some additional context. I also find it helpful when people comment on someone's attributes, new haircut, interesting wardrobe or background, that they describe this feature to the entire group. I appreciate knowing the diverse makeup of groups as well so I can gage if we are in fact diverse or if we have the same faces at every meeting from the same groups, i.e., white middle aged binary people. Who am I leaving out?	101
No	As Someone who has been totally blind since birth, I really don't care about descriptions. Something that is one or two sentences might be okay but isn't necessary.	102

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
Yes	Not during zoom meetings or other online platform. It can be useful at conference if you're asking for assistance in finding a person again, I can describe their attributes to assist.	103
No	<p>I don't find the information to be practically useful. I want to concentrate on the person's contributions; I don't need to know what they "look like", unless it's clearly and directly relevant to the topic under discussion. Why ask people to provide potentially embarrassing details that contribute very little?</p> <p>I am also concerned that this practice gives those who participate the false impression of being inclusive of audience members who are blind, even if they then proceed to give a presentation from slides that aren't accessible, and rely on visual information that is not described. In the case of an online meeting or conference, audience members might be asked to participate via tools that don't meet accessibility standards. I would prefer focus to be placed on the accessibility issues that matter (slide contents, means of participation, etc.).</p> <p>I haven't been asked to give a visual description of myself. I don't know what I would say, and I would prefer that audience members concentrate on more substantive matters, especially the quality of my contributions (whether high or low).</p>	104

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	unless they're going to specifically talk about their background/experiences related to their appearance, then I don't need a description. I totally understand if the talk is about being a person of color, someone with certain physical disabilities/mobility devices, etc. that they'd want to describe that they match what they're talking about, so in those cases, it's appropriate.	105
No	I do not require anyone to describe themselves when i meet them in person, so I certainly don't need it on a zoom call. Also, NI one seems to require that when talking on the phone. It actually makes me uncomfortable when it has been brought up at a zoom meeting.	106
No	I get through life without this description and it's too much for me to remember.	107
No	For we older folks, it is a bit awkward. Similar awkwardness as people wanting to tell me about their sexuality at these in person or on-line meetings. I am not interested if you have blonde hair or wear glasses or used to be a boy but now you are a girl. This type of information should come up in a more natural environment, like if someone asks. But to stand and announce it - well, it is just strange. It doesn't add to the content of the meeting.	108
No	NA	109

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	The self-description take time away from the content that I've signed up to hear.	110
No	When I attend a meeting or event, I am not there to know what someone is wearing, what color their skin is or what their favorite pronoun is. I am interested in the content/purpose of the gathering. This trend is a lot of "feel good", "me too" crap.	111
No	I feel this practice is unnecessary, unhelpful and unproductive.	112
No	How people look is and should be irrelevant to the purposes of a meeting or conference. The points made by a speaker should be considered on their merits without reference to the speaker's age, skin colour, gender, stature, girth, presence/absence of make-up, whether formally or informally dressed etc. etc. etc.. Equality is all about ignoring these differences so that we can concentrate on the value of what we contribute, not what we look like.	113
Yes	It is useful for me that people give visual descriptions of themselves.	114
No	It's absolutely very odd, and a bit creepy in my view to have other blind people describe themselves at a convention or conference or on zoom sa. I'd rather show my personality off then my looks.	115

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
Yes	I know it can add time and doesn't have much "value added"; but for me, it's just more access to visual information, and that's useful for building my own internal visual library.	116
No	It seems to be a vehicle for self-centered narcissistic individuals to self promote and grab as much attention from the crowd as they can. I really do not care what somebody looks like no do I care what their races nor do I care what their gender and pronouns are. It is very wasteful doing these introductions as it takes away valuable meeting time.	117
No	It provides an avenue for discrimination and the 'thin-slicing' of people.	118
No	It takes up too much time and, as a blind man, I would only be parroting words others use to describe me.	119
Yes	Although I checked "yes" in Q1, I would like to say that this practice may or may not be necessary, it may just be something folks might find that they want to do. Although "body shaming" might be a thing, body pride exists among the blind as well as the sighted community. I am pleased with my height, weight and especially my beard.	120
No	NA	121



<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	I am at the meeting for the subject matter, not a fashion show. I also do not feel the need to know the pronouns of the person. It's a distractor.	122
Yes	It is helpful if their engagement with the context/meeting/conference is impacted by their disability. For example, someone might have processing issues and might need a little extra time. Someone might have a hearing impairment and require others to speak a little louder etc.	123
No	NA	124

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	I am not a blind or visually impairment person but I felt validated in responding based upon a meeting I had only yesterday with two VI academics. When we met for lunch, it was our first time, and so I asked if they would like me to describe myself. They both laughed and said "Why, don't be silly. We get to know you by listening to you". They live and work in Australia. One of them is South African, the other is Australian. I thought that info may add a cultural / context element to your findings. I am based in the UK, and am involved with the Disability Studies academic world/disabled community/research. From my own experience this is now viewed (in this field at least) as an inclusive practice, but there is never any pressure on anyone to get involved. I did recently present at the Pacific Rim Hawaii Disability Studies Conference, and it was expected for all presenters to add a personal description, so there is some US context behind this new phenonium I think. Hope this helps. Dr. Cara Molyneux, Lancaster University, c.molyneux@lancaster.ac.uk	125
No	I think it is unhelpful for people to describe body-related characteristics because it is irrelevant to the meeting topic, but it is helpful for people to describe characteristics unrelated to the body, such as job title, strengths/weaknesses, etc. It is also important for people to state their pronouns.	126
Yes	I need join	127

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	The only meetings that I have attended where people feel the need to do this are in meetings where blind people are present. If I am the only blind person in the room, or one blind person in a a small group of blind people in the room even the virtual one, I feel like a spot light has been placed on me while the speaker is describing themselves. I don't like ththis unnecessary attention. I have never had any vision so descriptions are classification words mostly and not image builders for me, those with visual memory of color, faces etc may however find this information helpful to create a physical picture in their minds.	128
No	It's my biggest pet peeve ever since many of our meetings have gone virtual. I really don't care what you look like or what is surrounding you. It's a huge waste of time. If I want to know what you look like, I may ask you. Even then, o don't think I would. I'm not sure who came up with this idea, but it's very annoying to me.	129

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	I don't mind stating some things, like my ethnicity, but I find it harder with others. I consider that I am mostly cisgender but it's difficult to describe and I don't necessarily want to say I'm a woman or a cis woman because it's complicated and I don't feel I want to explain that to strangers. I'm an abuse survivor and describing my body is really difficult for me, I have a complicated relationship with my body. It feels like there's pressure to do a description, or else people think you're an asshole who doesn't care about accessibility. I don't want to explain to an audience, or to conference organisers, why this is difficult, but also don't want people to think I'm an asshole.	130
No	I think it just takes up extra time.	131
No	People's looks are irrelevant to me.	132

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	<p>I had this happen when I was in one meeting. I was the only blind visually impaired person in that meeting. Others have asked if I wanted it done and I have said no thank you. I'm blind from birth and don't really feel that I need this information. I also don't feel like I can adequately describe what I look like. For me this is just a waste of time just another way that instead of including me you separate me from the norm. Let's do as we do when all of our attendants are fully sighted and just get started with the actual meeting. I'm happy to engage in pre-meeting conversation but while I think some people might like this approach it's just more things I've got a pay attention to that aren't really important. I don't really care what you look like, you're obviously here because you can do the job and you have the skills needed or you wouldn't be present in the meeting. Maybe those who once had sight and have lost it might find this beneficial but for me it's no more beneficial than a sighted person trying to describe colors. It's completely lost on me.</p>	133
Yes	<p>For those that are blind from birth, it doesn't mean much to them, but I was able to see before and find it interesting. It just enhances the experience for me knowing a little about a person's appearance.</p>	134

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	I appreciate the gesture of people taking the time to describe themselves. Every time I have heard someone do this, I think they are doing it with the best of intentions. However, as a blind person, I am not overly concerned with what other people look like. Also, I could see how it would make others uncomfortable, who may not be entirely secure with the state of their physical appearance. And, finally, because I am blind, I don't feel so confident about describing myself.	135
No	<p>I don't mind doing it if someone has requested it to the organisers. It's a process cost i'm willing to pay, if it provides a more inclusive environment. I reject the assumption that it leads to greater inclusion.</p> <p>I feel the same about pronouns. If requested by someone, fine. Otherwise, declaration of pronoun preference focuses attention away from the theme of the meeting (unless gender identification is the theme of the meeting).</p>	136
No	I have never been in a setting where this was requested or performed. I would personally not been able to remember everyone description - and if I were blind I would like to hear only about approximate age and race - if this could be relevant for framing their talks in the meeting. If I would be asked to describe myself I would of course do it only if this is considered important by visually impaired people in that specific meeting.	137

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	I don't personally need description but see the point if someone with a different disability needs it. Unfortunately, people are too long-winded and silly with their attempts to describe so it becomes this performative act rather than a functional act.	138
No	I think it is a waste of the listeners time and indicates to me that they probably were not completely prepared for their address.	139
No	I mostly find it annoying. I don't mind it if the descriptions are really brief and succinct, but taking up minutes with that stuff is disrespectful of everybody's time. I'm here to learn about whatever the subject of the webinar is, not what you look like.	140
No	NA	141
No	People should be judged by the content of there character, not physical appearance. As a person, it doesn't really matter to me if someone is tall, short, thin or large. I care more about what they have to say. I also don't really care the type of clothing someone is or is not wearing, it is useless information. I am blind, I accepted that a long time ago. Part of that is that I will not get all of the extraneous information as my sighted colleagues.	142

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	I feel that this practice designed to foster inclusion fails because the blind individual is again exempted from an activity they are dependent on others to carry out. Every sighted person can already see and make assumptions of participants based on what they see. When describing themselves, they make decisions about their identity. This information is usually irrelevant to those who aren't aware of it. Remember: judge based on the contents of one's character rather than the color of their skin.	143
No	Unless the topic of the meeting pertains to the physical appearance of the individuals present it is a waste of time and is not very productive. I love meetings, but only when they are productive. letting everyone describe themselves would only serve to give me an excuse to tune out.	144
No	Toe-curlingly embarrassing.	145
No	Physical descriptions are generally not helpful and/or irrelevant in most situations.  Info on experience, roles, or other info related to the topic of the meeting is useful.	146



<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
Yes	I like to know who is in the room in terms of gender, race, disability. I don't really care what people look like but I want to know that a meeting or conference is diverse and a range of people are there. I think it is important that people's visual characteristics are spoken because even when people say they 'don't notice race' etc, non-blind people will have made snap judgements based on appearance and so even if blind people do not judge by appearances, they need to know that others might and this might influence their behaviour. Also, a short description gives me time to match voice to name and something memorable. I am blind but I live in a visual world so I don't mind describing myself. It gives me some agency over the way others see me.	147
No	I am totally blind, though I may be curious about what someone looks like, It's not something that I need to know.	148
No	Seems totally unnecessary and probably a distraction for other sighted participants.	149
No	No need for me personally. Feel uncomfortable if I am the only person in need of such info. If so, please make it quick by giving thought of what you want to say.	150

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	The visual features or characteristics of a person and the environment in which they are in, while mildly interesting, are really not relevant to the content being presented. However, obviously, it is felt that this is a respectful gesture or accommodation to those of us who are either totally blind or visually impaired.	151
Yes	It all depends on the situation. If it's a private meeting between two people it helps to know what the person looks like should in case you ever need to locate that person such as at a company. There may be times when someone who is blind may have a need to locate someone in a place of business and isn't sure what their name is, but yet they know what the person looks like. Sometimes if you describe the person you're looking for to a sighted person, that can sometimes help them to know who your talking about. I don't attend confrences so I have no real answer regarding that.	152
Yes	It can be helpful in certain circumstances if having this knowledge puts other information in context. However, if giving time to descriptions takes away from time allowed to providing information related to the PowerPOint that might otherwise not be obvious, then it is not helpful. I am afraid that there are some people who think that describing themselves gets them off the hook from providing material in accessible formats. Another problem is that description can be subjective, and is not truly verifiable.	153

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	I just don't find this information useful to me. I actually think this is a very narcissistic practice, and will not do it myself.	154
No	It absolutely makes no difference for me if I know what a person looks like, what he or she is wearing, etc. I am totally blind since birth and will not have a mental picture of a person based on description or self-description. I may remember some facts about a person if I know him or her well, such as hair color or height, but I will likely not remember this information about a stranger. And it will not factor in my impression of the person, I base my impression on outward behavior and the person's voice.	155
No	Being I have never seen, colors don't mean beans to me. I look at a person for who they are. If I'm around a person long enough the next time I see them, I will recognize their voice.	156
Yes	NA	157
No	In a professional setting I think it is irrelevant and a waste of time. On a personal level, I may want to know what a person looks like so I will ask them at the appropriate time, Usually once I get to know them better.	158
No	I have been totally blind since birth and find descriptions of visual stuff tiresome. I wonder how people who are legally blind react to this.	159

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	I realize that many may disagree, it just seems to me to be a matter of style over substance. Content content! I am concerned with people's ideas, not their appearance. Thanks.	160
No	I think this is a sighted person's attempt to do what they think blind people want, but they have no idea. I also think that some blind people want to appear interested in what people look like, as it makes them feel normal and part of the sighted world. I am one of the blind folk who feel it is pretentious and a waste of time to engage in this silliness.	161

<p>Yes</p>	<p>I have always enjoyed description of people at least to a point.</p> <p>Anything lengthy obviously is a bit of a timewaster but this is no different from when I do a job.</p> <p>I get a job say to test a bit of software or from another university or a person. So its a new person.</p> <p>I am after all going to remote to this person or do whatever. So firstly its security and safety.</p> <p>Then there is the interest for location, and then its curiosity.</p> <p>So I look at their website, I look at their social media and bits on them. In some cases, while testing for a company and while looking them up either while looking on their public site or whatever if for example I find something during my test or say during me looking about that has for example a way to get more jobs or whatever with that company I will click it and put myself in their system, I then will tell them I have done it for later.</p> <p>I have just gotten another 2 jobs via email from the same company without it going public like it usually does.</p> <p>I have never had a bad company as such but it works both ways. If its a good company its going to tell me what they are, who works there and potentially what they actually do and who employs them etc.</p> <p>So that tells me who I am working for, or how stable they are and also how I should act and expect.</p> <p>So obviously its different say for a government or a military organisation with government backing to say a university student, or educational</p>	<p>162</p>
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Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
	<p>organisation to a smaller company.</p> <p>Things like how to behave, what I will get, and what I can get away with also if its worth sticking with as I may get jobs in the future.</p> <p>I have never had anyone ultra describe everything about what they look like as such I'd probably get bored quickly but a quick intrests and such page doesn't go to badly, often its an icebreaker at conferences I have been and at least gets you to name a profile of someone if they tell you a piece.</p> <p>Saying that I haven't been to any huge conferences for a while and even where I can attend I often run online rather in person even though I know I lose some interactive elements.</p> <p>I however can see where this can become a bit of a problem if its a daily type deal.</p>	
Yes	<p>I like when people give details I call "flourishes" like what you might find in a book - for example, a woman described herself on a meeting as having long, chestnut-brown hair in French braids on either side of her head. A man mentioned his salt and pepper goatee. I like that better than hearing people describe the blurred zoom background behind them. As I said at one meeting, everything is blurred for those of us with vision loss! I appreciate these descriptions, as I see it as an effort to meet us where we are and include us.</p>	163

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	It is certainly done in order to show respect to those of us with visionloss. However, it isn't really of much value and I'd much rather see resourceese go into audio-described videos and accessible slide presentations. My only hesitation and why I normally just go along with it is that it is tied with the practice of revealing pronouns and I don't want to undercut the sensitivity towards those with differing gender identities.	164
No	During a meeting or conference, a description of a person's physical self is unprofessional in my opinion. All that I would need is the person's name and a brief description of their background or affiliation.	165
No	I find it a bit condescending. It makes me even more uncomfortable. It would be more helpful if the person just says their name and title unless it is Germain to the discussion, like identifying with a population working on an issue or personal experience like blindness or being a nurse, etc..	166
No	If someone happens to say something about htmselves as part of their presentation that is one thing, but to feel obligated to do so, it has very little meaning to me as someone who is blind. I'd rather hear their message.	167
No	I want to know your name and your afiliation. I don't want to hear you have green hair and wear red lipstick. That contributes nothing to the meeting nor to the information we are working on.	168

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
Yes	I enjoy hearing descriptions of others. Having said that, I do believe that people should describe themselves with whatever identifying information makes them comfortable. Maybe they only want to mention their race and what shirt they are wearing today. Maybe they want to just mention how they are wearing their hair today. The description should be voluntary and comfortable.	169
No	It does not matter to me what anybody looks like, it does not make a difference whether their involvement is helpful or not. it should not make a difference what somebody looks like.	170
Yes	though I've never been to a meeting where people describe themselves , I feel it would be a waist of valuable time. I atend Tech Talk Tuesday, hoasted by Jim Noseworthy, and this is not even thought of. partisapants are blind and low vision, and we just talk tech, nothing else. this event is a Canadian National Institute for the Blind event. the CNIB are the Canadian blindness organization. I am completely blind myself.	171



No	<p>I never describe myself during an online or phone meeting whether with blind or sighted people. I prefer to give as little information as possible especially in a meeting of strangers. If a blind person that I've known for awhile asks me something like what color my hair is or something I don't have a problem telling them especially if we're in person because if the person was sighted they'd see it. (I don't say whether it's natural or a wig though let them guess.) actually I think sighted people put too much emphasis on looks generally (obviously not always) and even blind people can't tell how old I am by my voice and when they find out they often think I'm much younger and are surprised. Actually I dated an African-American guy for two months one time before I knew he was that race and I'm of another race and it didn't matter until we got more serious and he was the one that broke it off because he was concerned about not wanting to put children through the difficulties that they might encounter because of our different races. (He was sighted so that may have made a difference too.)</p> <p>People are often quick to judge someone if they are overweight or something or if they're not physically attracted to a person they dismiss any possibility that the two could have a good relationship. I have seen people get very awkward on job interviews and in other public situations because of blindness and their concerns that indicate that they don't think a blind person can be independent. Wait staff in restaurants and stores still often try to defer to a sighted person who might be with me and ask them what I want to order. I happened to be with a friend who is sighted a few days ago at an animal shelter looking at potential dogs to adopt. My friend had given me a ride to the shelter and was there because I value her opinions but she doesn't live with me and we had made it clear that I was the one adopting the dog. People tend to be a little more subtle these days so the person wasn't exactly directing her answers to my friend but later I found that she kept constantly looking to my friend and was actually directing her questions and responses and giving answers to her and not me and she knew that by the way the woman was looking to her and directing answers to her. Studies have shown that when people are asked which disability they</p>	172
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Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
	fear most blindness is usually first or second. Maybe it has something to do with the primordial fear of darkness. So unless it comes up I usually don't mention that I'm blind in virtual meetings. If it comes up for some reason then I wouldn't generally hide it. I'm not ashamed of my blindness like my parents were. But I like to be viewed as being on an equal footing with sighted people and I have seen many times where they don't consider a blind person that way whether it is conscious or not.	
No	It feels like the impulse for this comes more from people who, well-intentioned perhaps, are assuming what kind of accessibility will make us blind people feel thought about. The truth is that someone describing themselves is not the same as you being able to look at them and take in the information on your own. Most people give you the blandest descriptions. They're not likely to tell you that they have a beautiful smile or a bad comb-over. I mostly find it an annoying waste of time.	173
No	its is porly done since they aren't train by someone who is blind.	174
No	NA	175
No	It's disrespectful of people's time and it is demeaning to people with disabilities.	176
No	NA	177

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
Yes	If a speaker would like to provide a description that includes age, race, disability, or any visual characteristic that communicates something meaningful to them, such as a rainbow scarf or MAGA hat or virtual background of the city where they live, I welcome the additional context. But descriptions can also leave me feeling annoyed. If, for instance, the online registration form for the event has unlabeled buttons and is missing basic accessibility features, or is held on a conferencing platform that doesn't work well with my screen reader, or if the handouts aren't accessible, then it's likely to be a somewhat frustrating experience. Accessible communication makes me feel "seen" and included. Without it, knowing the color of a speaker's scarf can feel superficial.	178
No	While this may be interesting for someone who previously had good vision, as someone who never had sight, I really don't care what a stranger looks like and won't retain the info. I also would not want to describe myself. Maybe these descriptions make people feel like they're doing something useful. It doesn't bother me, just seems kind of silly.	179
No	NA	180

No	<p>I've been in meetings where they asked everyone to describe themselves. In that case it really did take a lot of time. And I was the only blind person in the meeting. I think people that lose their vision later in life might appreciate it. But I also think people use that information to make judgments. And sometimes the person introducing the presenter wants to describe them and might use a word or label that that person would hate. I just have all kinds of problems with it. Bottom line, ask, don't assume and don't make it mandatory. If a presenter wants to describe themselves I don't have a problem with it. I don't think that blind people were asked when this practice began. Jonathan Mosen, the former CEO of freedom scientific and humanware, and one of my favorite podcasts in the world, is a huge proponent of this practice. But I feel that it is demeaning, time wasting, and yes, annoying. It makes me uncomfortable as the only blind person in a room or on a zoom call when they start doing it and I have no problem with telling them to stop. they argue that it's information and we should have the same access to information that anyone with sight has in the room. But this is impossible. If I'm in a meeting I'm there to gather information or work on a problem. I don't need the culture police telling me what to think. I don't need to know what race someone is. And I don't think it's even any of my business. I want to know what they know about that particular topic and how interested they are and passionate they are about that. I also have no problem with identifying myself. My name is Reginald George and I am an assistive technology specialist in Washington state for our department at Services For The Blind. I just think that it's time some of us pushed back a little bit on some of these societal changes where we weren't even consulted. We took an informal survey on our Washington council of the blind list and the majority of people did not appreciate being asked to describe themselves in meetings.</p>	181
No	<p>I am blind. No-one describes themselves in everyday face-to-face interactions with me. I would be embarrassed if they did. Unless it's</p>	182

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
	relevent, as in the way a person looks is relevent to the conversation, then I don't need to know.	
No	I don't really care how someone looks and if they are black or white or is wearing a striped shirt with pink and yellow buttons. It just does not interest me and has no impact on the productivity of the meeting.	183
Yes	I prefer that people first offer to describe them selfs and if the situation allows it then I say OK. Because in some situations it serves no purpuse (the description of a person) or if the meating is large the description of everyone there could take too much time unnesseseraly	184
No	To me, what people look like is irrelevant. It is helpful to know their gender identity, but only if I'm ever planning to address them personally. Otherwise, again, this is irrelevant. This seems like a case of sighted people trying to be helpful without consulting us and missing the mark yet again.	185
No	In my opinion because of this practice we loose the time. Moreover, as I am blind, this information isn't important for me and I forget it immediatly. Finally, I don't feel comfortable describing myself.	186
No	I do not think this is at all helpful as a totally blind person. I would have difficulty to explain myself.	187

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	<p>I can't stand it! It makes me want to scream "STOP". To me it has no value, just like feeling someone's face upon being introduced to another person, something most of us don't do! Some how, I've managed to get by for almost 70 years without people giving in person audio descriptions of themselves. I realize this practice may be more meaningful to people who once had sight than to those of us who have never seen. It seems to have started during the increase in Zoom get-togethers and webinars, taking place during covid. I don't find it necessary, am very irritated by it and think it takes audio description way too far! I want to get to know the person who is on the inside. What is on the outside shouldn't, and to me, doesn't matter. While it doesn't matter to me, if I do happen to have a casual physical encounter with a person, I will get an idea of body size by perhaps shaking hands, sharing a hug or taking his/her arm to walk somewhere together. Eye color doesn't matter, and for some of us, because of eye conditions, our eyes have features such as appearing sunken back, because of atrophy, over sized from glaucoma, opaque in color, etc. hair color and style and clothes can change. It's not just people who are blind who may feel uncomfortable describing themselves, but rather anyone who, for example has poor self esteem or poor body image. For these reasons, and perhaps others that aren't coming to mind early in the morning as I write this, let's just STOP!</p>	188
Yes	<p>When folks try to be funny in describing themselves. Like for example, I am a middle aged fat person. I would just prefer the facts.</p>	189

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	While well-intentioned, this practice is not only not generally helpful, it is detrimental because it makes people think that this is an accommodation that we actually need. It is a placating practice that distracts people from providing accommodations that would actually serve us well.	190
No	I don't think it's important to know what someone looks like. I think it's a waste of time..	191
No	I don't care, honestly, if you are wearing a blue shirt, if you're Caucasian, if you have a beard, just get to what the meeting is for. Stop wasting time with this dribble.	192
No	I see the benefit in providing preferred pronouns in these situations to avoid misgendering, but from my personal experience, a person's physical appearance rarely has any bearing on what they are discussing in most business situations and is more of a distraction. Also, I find that generally, someone's name, preferred gender, and voice provide enough detail; I can think of only a single situation in which someone's described appearance differed from my personal image of them.	193
No	Because I am totally blind it is information that I just do not need. Maybe I'd feel differently if I had low vision and could make some use of the description later.	194

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	NA	195
No	why is how someone's appears important to me? what they do is more inimportant to me that what they are. does it affect their intelligence, quality of material to be presented, or personality? it is a pretty darned shallow indication. thanks for reading. enjoy your day.	196
No	it's not useful and self descriptions take up valuable time. I don't care about individual attributes. I care about The Conversation. These practices reek of being performative.	197
No	I can understand why for some this would seem helpful. In society and in a sighted world, people can see each other and gather information, so it would seem like a good idea to try to balance the scales for sight disabled individuals by offering physical descriptions. I'm only speaking for myself when I say that I don't tend to think about how a person looks when I'm meeting with someone to discuss anything. I think if there is a reason to exchange that information it's fine to do so, but otherwise unnecessary.	198
No	Rarely has any meaningful content and detracts from the overall message.	199
No	It doesn't make any difference to me at all and doesn't enhance my experience of the person being described..	200



Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
Yes	I enjoy hearing about people at meetings. This helps me to learn about the audience such as gender, culture, age group, etc. I think the practice can increase sensitivity, as well. It feels great to be included by gathering a short description and does not take up a significant amount of time, in my opinion.	201
No	Most cases, I'm not interested in their physical appearance. Now, if there was something interesting in the background that people would comment on like a poster or some thing that they're wearing that will generate discussion like a t-shirt, than that is worth describing.	202
Yes	Just a simple description such as, I am a light-skinned Caucasian, 5 ft 4 in older female with short hair.	203
No	I would rather spend this valuable time focusing on information that would be shared during the meeting or webinar or whatever the meeting format. Describing oneself could be used during a more intimate meeting or if someone asks for it. It is dependent on the situation but most times not really required.	204

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
Yes	My starting point is that I'd like to have available as much as possible the information that sighted people around me get. That said, I don't want it to take much time away from the subject of a presentation. I doubt the NFB should espouse a strict rule on the matter, but we should promote at least the notion that any such description should be short and stick to the physical facts. And, I admit that I haven't craved such descriptions and probably never will during a convention or, say, an assembly programming seminar.	205
No	because I was born with no sight, I guess I never thought much about that. how ever thinking about it now could be of some help. its helpful to know where a person is sitting or speaking from so a blind person can face the presenter this is why it is so good to have these special apps to help locate the whereabouts of your presenter. its more important to know about the presenter then what they look like. how ever if you are like many of us that have not had sight it might be good. a sighted person identifies with a person by eye contact, and a blind person should be able to do that vary same thing.	206
Yes	Yes mainly if the self introduction/description is brief and not too overt	207
Yes	It is not really what they are describing visually that matters but to hear their voice, being able to better remember their voice and their emotions of the day so i can better focus on content afterwards.	208

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	I find this practice of providing descriptive information about yourself before getting to business 1) self-serving 2) arrogant 3) irrelevant and 4) very annoying. It telegraphs that the speaker cares more about appearing inclusive than valuing my presence and time.	209
No	The descriptions are always complementary and not truthful about the person. No one will say at a conference that bill gates has man boobs and a belly like a pregnant woman. Joe Rogan and Elon Musk have said this though. The CDC reports that 41 percent of American adults are obese. That's two out of every five adults. I doubt this will be conveyed in a visual description. I could list other examples that are not complementary descriptions. The whole notion of visual description has turned into a virtue signaling exercise.	210
No	It is totally useless. By the time I've heard the third fourth fifth person describe himself I forgot what the first person said. It is meaningless to me I don't care once I hear their voice I usually can tell who they are I don't really need to know what color hair they have what kind of glasses they are wearing or anything else. in fact what are the advantages I believe that blind people have is that we don't have any miss guided assumptions of what a person is there isn't. In fact I would've thought we would like to get away from describing ourselves as person with bald head fat stomach etc. Again this is a useless feature that is trying to be audio described but we don't need audio description when we're talking to the person	211

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	<p>I'm not blind. I find the practice gringe-worthy. I struggle to invent descriptions for myself, and I have yet to hear self-description that enhances my sense of the speaker. For me, the practice is a waste of time, cognitive energy, and breath.</p> <p>Over the past 25 years, I've hung out with dozens, maybe hundreds, of blind folk. I've spent significant amounts of time with many, as friends, co-workers, co-presenters, and travel companions. Not one has asked me to describe myself!</p>	212
No	NA	213

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
Yes	<p>I think it is helpful for people to describe themselves. this is useful as it lets me know everything that a sighted person already can see with their eyes, such as clothing they are wearing, and their skin tone. I think that short description of someone would be useful in meetings; not something so long. People don't need to really describe all their features of their faces, how many teeth they show when they grin, what their clothes match with that or this ETC. but a short description is fine such as: "My name is -----, my pronouns are him, his , and he, and I am a male with brown hair and semi-dark skin, wearing a black shirt."</p> <p>Another way description is useful is for showing pride in the diversity aspect of things. I am proud of describing myself because that's who I am and there is no plan or shame in changing myself or the way I look. That's who I am and I want to really say it out loud. I'm not going to describe 100% of all aspects of me, but I will provide just enough to buy time for the meeting and for others to describe themselves should they choose to.</p> <p>Also, visual descriptions shouldn't be a required thing in meetings. If people simply do not feel comfortable describing themselves, they should have their choice honored.</p>	214
No	My visual impairment should not be another impingement on the already tedious meeting process. If I need to know what someone looks like, I have no problem with asking directly.	215

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	NA	216
No	Being respectful and polite, asking questions in order to understand, and contributing pertinent information to a discussion is SO MUCH MORE IMPORTANT than what someone is wearing or how they look.	217
Yes	The level of helpfulness depends on the context. If I am at a routine meeting with co-workers or other professionals, I don't really have a need for the descriptions. If the situation is more formal or there is some type of presentation, I do like some information about the presenters. After all, sighted participants have this information, so why shouldn't we. Any descriptions should be very brief. It is not practical to spend the first 20 minutes of a meeting to hear what everyone looks like.	218
Yes	I don't think it needs to be everyone but the main speaker would be nice. People go around announcing their pronouns all the time when they are introduced, so why can't we have the courtesy of knowing what people look like. Again, I don't think every speaker (especially during q & a sessions) should do this, but it would be nice for blind people to start having an idea of what someone looks like since all the sighted people have easy access to this information and it forms a view of that person for them. Maybe it would lead to better body positivity.	219

<p>No</p>	<p>As a person with a congenital vision disability, I find this practice unnecessary. I am already on cognitive overload most of the time, and this just adds to the white noise. It simply isn't relevant to my survival or the knowledge I need to gain or impart in any given situation. Not to mention it takes up so much time. Honestly I'd rather somebody just told me their name as they began to speak particularly in unfamiliar settings. At least then I would be able to follow the conversation. Curly hair, red top, dark skin just crowd in and distract me. As somebody who is blind I already have to hold so much more knowledge in my head in order to navigate a build or virtual environment. This kind of practice takes away from that and is exhausting. Thus as a secondary it can lead to my making poor decisions and mistakes that I otherwise wouldn't make if I wasn't trying to hold descriptors of people also.</p> <p>I also feel it is a practice that forces identification and compounds many of the lines and inequities already drawn in the sand between people. It doesn't do what it is meant to do. Awareness does not breakdown bias in this situation. In many ways it can create even more.</p> <p>I do not see it as an experience that equalises or is an equivalent to having sight.</p> <p>It is performative equality/equity that is not efficient or effective. It is not inclusion in any meaningful way. It is inclusion on a service level that people think is inclusion that they can feel good about without actually having to make or enforce any proper real change.</p> <p>The barriers for people who are blind or have low vision are still there whether you tell me the colour of your eyes or not.</p> <p>Maybe we need to put our energy into systemic transformation and not this box ticking. Because although it can be argued that something is better than</p>	<p>220</p>
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Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
	nothing, this something is a sideways step that reinforces the status quo well seeming to do the opposite.	
No	the only person who I would like a good description of is some one who I was goign to date or have a phyisic kle relationship with.	221
No	I understand the idea but feel it somewhat unnecessary.	222
Yes	My feelings are mixed about this practice. Most of the time, I really don't care about the speaker's appearance. However, I like the idea of having equal access to information, if only so I can know the gender or race of someone whose voice doesn't necessarily convey this information clearly, and it is good to know how people at a given event tend to dress. However, having people describe themselves feels a little creepy to me, like those weird people who come up to me and ask me if I want to feel their faces, yuck!	223
No	The description I would appreciate is basically the person approaching say, " hi I am..." I am guessing that is what this survey might be looking for. I do not need a physical description.	224
No	make powerpoints accessible, describe infographics, say your name before talking, don't be vain and ableist and try to help with something that I never wanted that makes you seem vain and concieted	225



<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	NA	226
No	I have no context for (nor interest in) a "blue" sweater or "pink" hair. It's a bizarre trend that really comes off as trying way too hard so that you can pat your own back.	227
No	While I understand that people are trying to be more inclusive, the way to be more inclusive during meetings towards people with vision related disabilities is to ensure meeting materials are created in accessible formats, that presentations or demonstration use good verbal descriptions and presenters don't say things like click here or look at this over here or watch how I do this.	228
No	I does not really help me at all. It is interesting but not really necessary.	229
Yes	I want to know what people look like. I am willing to share information discribing myself.	230
No	I find it annoying and feel that it just adds to everything needing to have a label.	231
No	If that is what people want to do that is fine with me, but I really do not find it helpful. It is one's attitude and what one has to say which makes a difference.	232

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	I find it awkward--Idon't like describing myself and I don't care what others look like, so I end up feeling unnerved by the whole thing! I wonder how it started and wish it would go away!	233
Yes	<p>A lot depends on context. If I am in a room full of creatives who are all exclaiming over each other's clothing I want to be part of the action. Plus I lost vision in mid-life so I have lots of remaining visual interests. Plus sometimes I feel like telling people when i am wearing striped socks a jumper and a flowered blouse. Often for me a bit of self-description helps clear up the meaning of the blobs I see.</p> <p>One time when I could officially see I was at a tech event. The women at some vendors' booths were in miniskirts, professional miniskirts but still miniskirts. At other booths every of all genders was in chinos and polo shirts. What messages do you imagein different vendors were sending?</p> <p>I do understand concerns about the practice taking up too much time which is part of why I say context matters.</p>	234
Yes	NA	235

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	I'm not blind so my voice shouldn't be counted too high but I think if this becomes practice it should be included in image metadata before the presentation : conference and not something that people do at start of conversation it feels very unnatural	236
Yes	We don't know what we're missing until we hear a description.	237
No	I don't have a visual impairment. However I'm happy to provide a description of myself as long as what I include is my own choice and not prescribed.	238

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	<p>No- but depends on context. I understand the value of descriptions but having an invisible disability I have a difficult time describing myself. I like the short and relevant descriptions and don't always need what someone is wearing or in the background "unless" it is relevant to their talk/discussion (and it can be).</p> <p>For me, having to describe my age (i do worry about ageism in the workplace), what I think I look like (body image is difficult). Sometimes i find i am so preoccupied thinking about what I am going to say- that I lose focus on other folks descriptions and even their names...and become even more anxious before my talk begins.</p> <p>I do want to value and provide an introduction that is inclusive and respectful to all. Thank you for this survey, Karen! I am looking forward to learning more about the results!</p>	239
No	It makes me focus more on their appearance than what they have to say or how they think. Demands we channel ourselves into a throttled/reduced narrative.	240
No	NA	241

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
Yes	If there is a large group, everyone describing themselves is very time consuming. In my opinion, perhaps only presenters should describe themselves. To elaborate on the first question, it is helpful, but not essential. Also, those describing should have some guidance about what to say, not just free associate about themselves which takes up more time.	242
No	I do not think that personal descriptions of ones self or the room they are in have any real usefulness to cloud based meetings unless the meeting has something to do with that person. If it is a meeting about technology or some other topic, I do not find it helpful or necessary to have folks describe themselves. I personally think it is a waste of time and resources.	243
No	In most cases, I really don't care what people look like or what they are wearing. By the time the conference is over, I've already forgotten what they said.	244
Yes	Basic visual aspects of a person are immediately available to anyone with sight, and I like to be able to share in that information. I think people should share only that which is meaningful to themselves. For sighted people, one's appearance is usually very important to one's overall impression.	245

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
Yes	For sighted people, personal appearance is usually an important aspect of how a person wishes to be perceived. It is important to me to be able to share in that information. In addition to satisfying a degree of curiosity about other people's appearances, it may also provide valuable to me, such as racial identity, visual backgrounds, the style of dress that may be normal or even important to a given setting.	246
Yes	I find it helpful to add depth to the picture I have created in my mind. It is also helpful and inclusive when the description provides information that adds context to a comment either by the speaker or someone else in the group. For example, if someone makes a reference to the blue in someone's hair, I appreciate knowing that the person has black hair with a blue streak rather than having to ask for the context of the comment. I also feel it is important for those of us who are blind and low vision to have an understanding of what is appropriate appearance and dress in different situations (especially work and professional settings). Unfortunately, this type of information is not always shared with people who are blind or low vision. Thus, receiving descriptions of people in different settings can help to provide the cultural context of the setting.	247
No	NA	248

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	<p>I believe the first question should have one more option - "sometimes". Providing description of speakers isn't always helpful, especially in cases of congenital blindness. But it could be. I don't believe it paints a real picture for early blinded. My opinion is based on my late sight loss point of view. If the description is pretty short, it could be acceptable. Long descriptions are usually a loss of time. The accent should be on what the person is saying, not on who is saying it, although the persons beliefs form speakers' positions and appearance , and could be potentially important. It depends on the subject in focus. For truly equal visual experience they should be descriptive as much as possible: they should describe their styling, makeup, glasses, nose, hair, clothing, neckline, background picture, jewelry and so on in detail. And this could be a big loss of time in panel discussions for example. And what to say if the speaker is blind himself? Could he describe himself accurately? And there are other questions too.</p>	249
No	<p>This issue is so minor to me and many I know when the unemployment and accessibility for blind is such an issue. I don't care if someone feels the need to describe themselves, I just don't think it is something that should be mandated. As an individual, if I want to know what someone looks like, I will ask. It could make things awkward for some speakers and observers if mandated and would do more harm for the blind community than help. If the conference was for a mostly blind audience, the practice might be more appropriate.</p>	250

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	I'm sighted, so my opinion does not matter. HOWEVER, I've talked to many blind and low vision people and the majority say NO -- hence I'm doing with the majority preference of those whose voices matter most.	251
Yes	I am not blind, but due to processing issues and autism affecting how I process things (also I wear bifocals so my vision isn't that great to begin with, especially in meetings/conferences), it really helps to hear people describe themselves. Plus with things like heritage or gender, or even things like invisible disabilities right, what I may assume those are may be very different from how the speaker themselves views their own identity in any case.	252
Yes	NA	253
Yes	NA	254
No	I find it self indulgent and that it reinforces gendering of everything.	255
Yes	It helps me get acquainted with the person.	256
No	PI find it annoying. I understand newer blind people may like the practice, but I do not feel it is necessary.	257



Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	as a visually impaired person I find the practice useless. I don't care about hair color or body size neither ethnicities which is what people assume I need to know about them. What I hate even more is the color of what you are wearing, this is unnecessary for all environments especially work ones.	258
Yes	NA	259
No	I feel that it is not necessary. For sighted people, we don't do this on the telephone, for example.	260
No	I do not find it useful. I do not need to know what someone looks like. It is also a big waste of time.	261
No	I don't want to know what most people look like. If a close friend tells me how someone looks, without going into too much detail, okay.	262
Yes	I feel that it's important from an intersectionality perspective. Someone who is non-binary, or Indigenous or any other marginalized group can seek support from allies or like-minded people through this exercise. That said, what someone is wearing or what their background is are less important and not productive. I also think those that don't want to describe themselves is okay.	263

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	It wastes time that could be used on content. Our culture is too obsessed on appearance over substance.	264
Yes	I find it interesting. Why shouldn't I have access to the same information that sighted folks have?!	265
No	in a professional setting I find it awkward, irrelevant and a waste of time. If it were a date, a beauty pagint, or some other event that revolves around looks, I might want visual descriptions, but from a neutral party, not the people themselves.	266
Yes	<p>A description lets me associate a video or avatar to a voice. It helps keep track of who is making what points in the meeting.</p> <p>In face to face meetings in a room, voices come from different directions, but in video meetings all the voices come from the same loudspeaker. I don't get the same spatial cues, so knowing which voice goes with which picture helps. Video meetings are better than telephone conference calls for me.</p> <p>Why is the survey only for blind or visually disabled people? I'm sighted and have ADHD. I'd like to be considered too.</p>	267

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
Yes	We should all have access to the same information in a meeting, whether we can see or hear or not. Self-descriptions shouldn't go on for hours and hours but a sentence about what we look like can provide important context, e.g. does the person speaking have white privilege? Are they male or female? Are they visibly disabled? This provides context for what they are saying and their contributions to the meeting or event.	268
Yes	NA	269
No	Deeply unnecessary and abelist	270
Yes	As sighted people use non-verbal cues to understand and, perceive information shared (either fair or not). I want the same information as this creates an attempt at a level playing field. Knowing who is speaking provides context.	271

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	<p>Over all no, sometimes yes. For a few reasons.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Most don't give a particularly useful description.</li> <li>2. I've lived my entire life without needing it.</li> <li>3. I don't know what I'm missing and whether I'd find it useful after all unless I experience it more, and shooting it down right away would rob me of the chance.</li> <li>4. People shouldn't feel obligated to do it, but if any somewhat significant portion of the community appreciates it, I think it's worth it. Who am I to deny them their information just because I personally don't find it useful, or because I'm not comfortable in my own skin enough to feel a little called out? Especially when I know inherently that everyone is probably staring at me already... The only difference is that I can't perceive that so I can usually pretend it isn't true.</li> </ol>	272
Yes	I like everyone to be on the same level playing field. Either we have photos and video and people describe themselves, or eliminate photos and videos and no one describe themselves.	273
No	NA	274

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	I find it odd. The information does not contribute to the content of the presentation. I would rather they spell their name, because if I needed to search for their contact information in my emails or something, I would know the correct spelling.	275
Yes	I will ask a sighted co-worker to describe people to me and what they are wearing. I like to know how others dress and what is trendy. That is the only way that I can know how to dress appropriately and what is in style.	276
No	waste of time and awkward, this has never been done before in web Accessibility	277
No	NA	278
Yes	More inclusive when done sincerely and succinct	279
No	In most situations a speaker's physical appearance is not especially relevant to their content, so taking the extra time to do it provides minimal value. A third party describing visual elements in this setting through an earpiece or something might be useful, and I appreciate the place where this comes from. But it's not anything I ever really thought about wanting prior to it becoming a thing recently.	280
No	I can be helpful in some situations but most of the time its overdone.	281

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
Yes	sometimes, can be helpful in knowing more about people, especially when it is the presenters as it can help fill in their cultural perspective	282
No		283
No	If it is not part of the meeting topic or adds to the discussion, then it is pointless and a waste of time.	284
Yes	I think it is helpful even though I am blind. That said, I respect the fact that others may not care to describe themselves and would encourage the option for meeting participants to decline the request.	285
Yes	As an autistic person, those descriptions can be helpful if I have to further interact with people during the meeting. But If I just want to learn something, without having to interact, I prefer to skip this information and go ahead with the main topic.	286
No	It seems patronizing and self serving most of the time.	287
Yes	NA	288
Yes	It's nice to feel included for a change, it doesn't take much effort and doesn't affect the other attendees, so I welcome it.	289

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	This is one of many ideas that is rooted with all the best intentions, but in practicality isn't overly helpful. I would rather just get down to business. It's not particularly important to me what you look like or what you're wearing. also I would prefer not to be singled out as the only reason you are doing this and I honestly tend to side with my sighted coworkers who would almost certainly prefer to just get the meeting over with.	290
Yes	I don't think it should be required but when given, the descriptions give a person who is VI an insight into the presenter's character that sighted people get immediately, e.g. someone who likes to wear bright, loud clothes, has a funny Zoom background or someone who has artistic taste in hairstyles, jewelery. It can explain things sometimes when the presenter might make allusions to a situation, e.g. the presenter may have their arm in a sling and make reference indirectly to not being able to use the computer. It allows VI participants to join in any ad hoc visual references that may come up about attendees, e.g. "I like your new hair cut Wendy!", or "What's the name of your cat (sitting on their shoulder)".	291
No	Time consuming. Can cause judgments, conflict, hurt feelings, and the list goes on. This, for me, falls in the category of "feeling faces" to know what someone looks like. No way!	292
Yes	NA	293

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	It doesn't matter to me what someone looks like. The color of their hair, blouse, shirt, etc. means little. I'm there for the information. That's it. I think it's silly and narcissistic. No one asks their audience to describe themselves, after all. It's a turn-off for me.	294
No	I have been blind my whole life, so even though someone may be trying to be as descriptive as possible, I still don't have a concept of certain visual aspects such as facial expressions.	295
No	I think the whole notion of having people describe themselves at meetings is ridiculous. I've heard blind folks say that everyone else gets to see what the person looks like, so us as blind people should too. Everyone else gets to see what the walls look like, what any pictures on the walls look like, what the carpet looks like, etc. Are we supposed to describe all that too? If not, why not? Sorry, but this idea of having people describe themselves makes my blood boil. We are blind. We cannot see. We don't need to see what a person looks like. We can just listen to what they have to say. End of rant.	296
No	I find it distracting and frustrating to hear a multitude of colours of clothing described. It detracts from the actual purpose or meaningfulness of the event I am attending. It means I start the event or meeting already feeling like I am disempowered, since I can't describe in the same way anyway.	297



<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	What does it matter what someone looks like? I'm there for the information. Is their description relevant to the subject matter?	298
No	People often give to much detail when describing themselves.	299
No	I always find it odd and wonder why it's relevant to describe yourself when your appearance has nothing to do with the topic.	300
No	It takes too much time and is hard to control brevity	301
Yes	NA	302
No	I want people to respect me for the work I accomplish and to view me in a professional light. Many women still have to fight to be seen as peers with the men in the field, not objects. Ever been to a conference, having a great conversation about xyz topic and suddenly you are being asked to accompany the person back to their hotel room? Were they ever interested in your knowledge and ideas? Many women have this experience when trying to network with men. Describing myself feels like putting the focus back on my body, making me an object, which I refuse to do and don't think anybody should feel pressured to. Unless the purpose of the meeting is about fashion or physical appearance, let's leave out the descriptions that reintroduce ageism, sexism, colorism, and other objectifying possibilities into the mix.	303

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
No	It makes me feel uncomfortable, and also obligated to remember all the details they provided. In a large group of people, this could be overwhelming.	304
Yes	NA	305
No	NA	306
Yes	As a totally blind person I find it helpful to know the basics without the pronouns.	307
No	NA	308
No	I'm sighted. Although it can be interesting to learn what people choose to describe about their own appearance, in contrast to what I see, I don't need it. If I describe myself, it feels awkward, and as has been pointed out, I'm not always accurate! I have been given informal feedback from a blind colleague that it doesn't help them.	309
No	It takes too much time, body dismorphia is real in my case, I don't understand how is helpful to let know that I'm wearing. Blue shirt or a headband. I'm also struggling with ethnic identification I don't feel comfortable sharing my struggles with that.	310

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	I think that a brief description is ok. But very brief, maybe 3 key descriptive words	311
No	NA	312
No	I am sighted and I don't see the value in having sighted individuals describe themselves to non-sighted individuals. This takes up too much time that could be spent on sharing content instead of focusing on our own vanities.	313
No	I agree with the concerns you mentioned in your post: "Some of the arguments against this practice are that it takes up too much time, many people who are blind don't feel comfortable trying to describe themselves, and there is the issue of body confidence and body shaming among other posts and discussions." There's also a language and communication ability expected with such types of description (questions of quality or quantity of "how well" you describe yourself). Some people prefer not to display their image on Zoom calls and this can create an issue for those who wish to participate in the background. Seeing people react to the way you describe yourself can also be an issue for some people. In general, I'm not a fan of this practice at all.	314

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	It may be appropriate in a one to one meeting of a semi-personal nature, but not in a group meeting. I find it embarrassing when people insist I touch their face, for instance. Describing themselves just for my benefit as a blind person seems unnecessary to me as well as drawing attention to me as a blind person and may even be difficult for people to do. It is different when every person in a group call just introduce themselves and tells a little about themselves, but once again, physical characteristics is not relevant in such a situation.	315
Yes	NA	316
Yes	But it would be nice if there were some guiding questions as some go on forever and some don't say enough!	317
Yes	It really depends, sometimes the answer is no. What I mean is, I'm VI and HOH w/Tinnitus. If the meeting is only a few people (8 or less) I'm ok with no descriptions, if more than 8 I have a hard time tracking who is speaking if all the cameras are on. If I know the person is 'presenting as' male or female (voices don't always imply male or female, and I'm ok with pronouns esp if the person lets me know in some manner they prefer 'they/them' etc), and has on a red shirt/blazer, etc, then it's easier for me to scan for red xyz and hopefully dark-hair or whatever, glasses, etc. I hope that makes sense.	318
No	NA	319

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
Yes	While not essential, I feel that this practice allows an attendee to get a sense of the person and their way of expressing ideas and content. Given the informality of this practice, it provides an alternate prospective for all who attend.	320
Yes	It creates a welcoming and inclusive environment and helps to be able to recognize speaker's voices	321
Yes	I have mixed feelings about this, and most of the time don't want to take the time.	322
No	NA	323
No	NA	324
No	NA	325
No	Just seems weird to do this. We're not supposed to judge people by how they look, so why are people describing themselves this way? I'd rather know who someone is and what their credentials are than what they look like.	326
No	If folks are going to describe themselves, I'd rather it not be about their appearance but more what kind of person they think they are.	327

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
Yes	<p>Introductions can be fun!</p> <p>I've been to council meetings and had no idea of who's there, or their role.</p>	328
No	<p>I am totally blind and it never occurred to me to wonder what people looked like or what they were wearing until I heard people start to describe themselves in meetings and presentations. occasionally I am curious and surprised at the descriptions but I don't think it is necessary unless people choose to do it as part of their personal identity. I think it takes up unnecessary time in meetings but would consider it useful when presenters are introducing themselves or doing video introductions like we are starting to see on LinkedIn. I would have liked a choice that identified "sometimes" rather than just yes or no.</p>	329
Yes	<p>I don't like it when it goes on too long, and takes away from the purpose of the meeting. Brief is best if it is done at all. It seems to be more of a trend in cross disability meetings, and isn't generally done in blindness organization meetings.</p>	330
No	<p>This limited commodity of being helpful can be far more productive by addressing other access barriers. Not to mention if you're the only person in the meeting who may possibly benefit from a visual description, it just wastes time that could be used for other meeting-related content. After all, time is money as the saying goes.</p>	331

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
Yes	As a blind individual I find it to be very helpful when people describe themselves that way I know who I am interacting with thank you for doing this have a great weekend	332
Yes	NA	333
Yes	NA	334
Yes	I love hearing the visuals of what people look like and what they are wearing.	335
No	NA	336
No	NA	337
No	I usually go to a meeting or event to learn more about the subject, not hear hear a description of those participating. Perhaps this is a long-practiced norm from just living life. Usually, people do not describe themselves when we meet in person. I do not see it serving any real value in a virtual meeting. Even though sighted people can see others using video, I find it is not necessary to have people described in my case.	338
No	I care more about the material that the person is presenting and think that a detailed verbal physical description distracts from the presentation.	339

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	NA	340
No	I understand that self-description is intended to give blind participants information easily available to sighted people, but I sign up for presentations because I'm interested in the topic, and self-descriptions delay getting to the content I want to hear.	341
Yes	And if others have barriers as well. Disabilities. 👍	342
Yes	I am not used to people describing themselves yet, so I feel a bit uncomfortable, when they do. However, I appreciate the information others take for granted, and I am sure I will become accustomed to the practice over time.	343
Yes	NA	344
Yes	As someone who went blind 15 years ago, in my early twenties, I have been delighted at this new practice and it greatly increases my feelings of inclusion.	345
Yes	On a video call people should describe themselves to provide equal access. As a blind person I want to know this info like everyone else.	346



Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	I don't know who came up with this idea, but i find it to be ridiculous, and I don't like that it is being pushed as somehow helpful to and inclusive of the blind.	347
No	There is nothing about a meeting or an informal event that would improve my understanding of the event by knowing what the person look like. Descriptions would prolong the event	348
Yes	NA	349
No	I answered no. As a totally blind person why should it matter. Also I'm 100 percent against presenters telling the blind about their pronouns.	350
Yes	Depending on the subject it can be helpful if the person making a commit is living up to the standards or not. If you like people to wear a tie but you don't this should be known.	351
Yes	I would like the same information sighted participants receive. Also, I am a performing arts professional and know the power of appearance. Even if I don't let it enter into my perceptions, sighted participants inevitably will. Also, for people from ethnic minorities, it is empowering to know people who look like them are also participating and may be succeeding in a meaningful way.	352

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
Yes	This really helps me to visualize accurately. Since I saw for the majority of my life, this is important. If you're sighted, you can see but not so if you are now blind.	353
Yes	I just recently virtually attended the lead conference through the Kennedy Center. I enjoyed having descriptions of the speakers. This has been a standard practice through the virtual Sensory Journey through Art provided by the North Carolina Museum of Art with which I have participated for more than a year. I was a bit surprised the first time they did it. I think it is a good thing, and would like to see more of it. I have a friend who tells me if "I see it-I say it." Through this attitude I feel engaged more in my surroundings.	354
Yes	I honestly never really thought about the need for someone to describe themselves during their introduction but I don't see a problem with it	355
Yes	NA	356
Yes	NA	357
Yes	NA	358

Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?	Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.	ID #
No	People who have no modesty and inflate their importance rather than relating to the topic with an insight from practice or just stick to their place of work and city and state.	359
No	I guess it makes no difference to me what color their hair is, what they identify as (other than if I will be in direct contact reith them. But I also have some sight so maybe that's why I am not concerned with the details.	360
No	As someone who is blind, what people visually look like is not really part of my perception of the world. Even though I use to be able to see, that really is not part of how I perceive people now. Personally, it feels like something sighted people do because what people look like is important to them and they assume somehow that my experience lacks something important without it. I suspect it is because when sighted people think of others, they visualize them. The reality is that when I think of others, I also have a mental picture of those people--but that mental "picture" isn't visual.	361
No	NA	362
Yes	I'm totally blind, but I feel that this is a good practice for people with low vision, and even if I have never been able to understand vision, I think it's good, because I'm used to reading about it in books.	363

<b>Do you find it helpful when people describe themselves during meetings or at conferences?</b>	<b>Provide any feedback or comments on this practice.</b>	<b>ID #</b>
Yes	I was born with a visual impairment. And therefore had quite a bit of usable vision growing up. And because I know what people look like, it is now helpful to hear that once again in meetings even though, I am now almost totally blind.	364
Yes	I enjoy knowing what sighted folks take for granted and one of those things is knowing what folks look like. It is very helpful and respectful for me as a person who is blind.	365
Yes	It gives me an idea of what someone looks like, their interests, that sort of thing. Personally, I haven't seen that kind of practice a lot in meetings, simply because all of the meetings I have attended involved people I already knew.	366
No	NA	367
No	NA	368
Yes	I wish more people would describe themselves in meetings.	369
Yes	NA	370