OBJECTIVES

1. To illustrate the importance of learning the preferences, values and beliefs of people.
2. To illustrate the unique experiences that can occur when healthcare professionals find meaningful ways of connecting with older adults.

TARGET AUDIENCE

Healthcare professionals and/or health professions students, either in a group or online discussion group.

EXERCISE

1. Have participants view the video “Old Man In Nursing Home Reacts To Hearing Music From His Era” at http://musicandmemory.org/.
2. Ask each learner to share their reactions and reflections.

This is a clip from a documentary “Alive Inside” by Dan Cohen, who is giving iPods to nursing home residents, that contains a personalized playlist of some of their favorite music. In this particular video, a nursing home resident who appears to be unresponsive reacts to hearing music that he loved from his era. While he was previously hunched over in his wheelchair, his eyes widen when he hears the music and his whole being "quickens". He remembers who he is and even sings one of his favorite songs. Cohen illustrates the keen link between music and memory.

For the WAGECC learners, it also illustrates the unique experiences that can occur when healthcare professionals find meaningful ways of connecting with older adults.