Based on physical appearance, nonverbal communication, environments, and overt behavior, we interpret the cues and characterize the person with a correspondent inference.

When motivated to go beyond a first impression, we consider possible causes of behavior to make attributions, correct correspondent inferences, and integrate multiple aspects of an impression, sometimes resulting in a more accurate impression.

This considered impression is used as the basis of judgments about the individual, which may be superficial, considered, and responding to inconsistent information, often to explain away inconsistencies and maintain the impression unchanged.