

# Understanding and Supporting Perspective Taking

	Recognizing Perspectives	Taking On Perspective	Weighing Perspectives	Deepening Understanding
	<p><b>Context:</b> It is quite natural to approach a given topic with an understanding of only one's own thoughts, feelings, and insights. However, others often view a topic differently.</p> <p><b>Focus:</b> Identifying the different perspectives that might exist on a topic or issue makes one become aware that there are other perspectives to investigate.</p>	<p><b>Context:</b> As we take on, try out, and embody different viewpoints, we give voice to new perspectives, thus creating an emotional context and developing empathy.</p> <p><b>Focus:</b> Exploring how different perspectives are shaped by specific context, backgrounds, and experiences (family, school, era, neighborhood, etc.) influences viewpoints. This exploration adds dimensionality to a given topic, issue, or event</p>	<p><b>Context:</b> Multiple perspectives adds a dimensionality to a given topic, issue or event. However, what a perspective adds, how it informs, where it connects to others, and where it might be limiting must first be explored</p> <p><b>Focus:</b> We take a critical stance toward the perspectives that have been explored in order to consider their contributions and insights. This may also require considering whether there are additional perspectives to be explored.</p>	<p><b>Context:</b> Thoughtful examination of different perspective can help spark new insights, puzzles, and questions. Through integrating various perspectives, we can achieve greater understanding</p> <p><b>Focus:</b> We can make use of other perspectives to add dimensionality to an issue, topic, or event and advance our understanding.</p>
Key Components	<b>Identifying the different perspectives that might exist on an issue, event, or topic.</b>	<b>Stepping into other's shoes to explore and give life to other perspectives.</b>	<b>Weighing the contributions of various perspectives, including one's own, to our understanding</b>	<b>Leveraging the contributions of various perspectives to arrive to new insights about a single topic</b>
Forms this takes & various sub-moves involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition that one's views and the way one sees the world is a perspective or viewpoint.</li> <li>• Awareness that others have perspectives that might differ from one's own.</li> <li>• Identification of different perspectives.</li> <li>• Placement of perspectives in relation to each other. For</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of the feelings, thoughts, of others and how those might be different from one's own.</li> <li>• Empathy</li> <li>• Consideration of how background experience and values shape perspective.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of the contributions, insights, and awareness that can be offered by other perspectives.</li> <li>• Flexibility and a willingness to tolerate ambiguity as one seeks out and considers different perspectives.</li> <li>• Digging into perspectives for insights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognition of the limitations of any single perspective.</li> <li>• Actively seeking out other perspectives.</li> <li>• Willingness to approach things in another way.</li> <li>• Recognition of the inherent complexities in most situations/events.</li> </ul>

	example: perspectives that are similar versus opposing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understanding the limits of any single perspective, including one's own.</li> </ul>	
Questions that encourage the thinking in different contexts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Who might see things differently?</li> <li>Can we look at this from a different angle?</li> <li>Who might have a similar perspective?</li> <li>Who might have a different perspective?</li> <li>Do you think they would see things the same way you do? Why or why not?</li> <li>Would you have a different perspective?</li> <li>What shapes that perspective? Where does that perspective come from?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Why might they feel/think that way?</li> <li>What experiences does this person/character bring to the situation.</li> <li>What does this person see? Think? Feel? Question?</li> <li>What other concerns might someone in this position have?</li> <li>Why might they/you feel/think differently?</li> <li>What's another stance on that?</li> <li>What mindset/beliefs/values does that person/character bring?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What does that perspective illuminate?</li> <li>What does that perspective not take into account or dismiss?</li> <li>What does that perspective add?</li> <li>Why have perspectives on this changed? What is different about or beliefs/values/thinking now?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What can we learn from that perspective?</li> <li>What perspectives have we not taken into account?</li> <li>What can you use from that perspective?</li> <li>What gaps in your understanding of the problem/situation/idea does that perspective help to fill in?</li> <li>Let's look at this from a different lens?</li> <li>How might ___ solve this?</li> <li>How do the added perspectives help us see the complexity?</li> <li>What are we missing?</li> </ul>
Typical Struggles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is often confusion between opinion (what one thinks) and perspective (the way you think). A perspective is what you bring to any given situation, one's beliefs, experience, and values that influence or shape your thinking. Thus, one's perspective is always valid though the opinion that arises may be challenged.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When "stepping inside" a situation, students may merely place themselves in the situation or events and project how they would feel. Thus, they are telling "how I would feel in that situation," rather than actual considering the other's perspective.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early closure on one's thinking about a problem, situation, or effort to build understanding.</li> <li>Failure to recognize that one can learn from a perspective without taking on or agreeing with all that is offered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Early closure on one's thinking about a problem, situation, or effort to build understanding.</li> <li>Failure to recognize that one can learn from a perspective without taking on or agreeing with all that is offered</li> </ul>
Language scaffolds and strategies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Another way to look at this situation might be...</li> <li>Let's consider another perspective.</li> <li>Let's switch our perspective</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Talk about perspective: "What do you think these two characters were feeling/thinking/ concerned with?"</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tug-of-war routine</li> <li>Step in, Step out, Step Back</li> <li>Let's consider...</li> <li>On the other hand...</li> <li>What else do we need to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peeling the Fruit routine.</li> <li>What are we missing?</li> <li>Let's add to our understanding by considering...</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model perspective taking, e.g., “Help me understand your perspective. How are you seeing this?”</li> <li>• “What I hear you saying is...”</li> <li>• Talk about the feelings and thoughts of different individuals in a situation.</li> <li>• Story Routine: Main-Side-Hidden</li> <li>• Circle of Viewpoints routine</li> <li>• Tug-of-War routine</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On the other hand...</li> <li>• Step Inside routine</li> <li>• Completing almost any thinking routine from another perspective other than one’s own.</li> </ul>	<p>consider or take into account?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What perspectives might change our view of this?</li> <li>• What insights can we gain from this perspective?</li> <li>• How</li> </ul>
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