



VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

See multiple perspectives



OBJECTIVES

- Students will consider how their perspective differs from others
- Students will discuss the impact of perspectives on conflict

MATERIALS

- Writing supplies for students
- Unusual object (optional for the variation)

TIME

15 min

LESSON INTRO

We each have a unique perspective of people and events. This activity explores how very different perceptions can be, and questions what happens when people experience things differently in conflict situations.

LESSON STEP BY STEP

1. Gather the students around a classroom window.
2. Allow a few moments for silent observation of the scene outside.
3. Next, ask each student to silently write one descriptive sentence about what they observe.
4. Have each student read their sentence to the group to show that many points of view enrich the picture.

VARIATIONS

1. If there is no window, or for an alternate way to run this activity, have the students sit in a circle and place an unusual object in the middle (a snow globe, a water bottle with many stickers, an old electronic, etc.). Each student will write what they see from their perspective.
2. Rather than having students write down what they see and read it aloud you can ask students to state one observation out loud. Every student must state an observation but cannot repeat one that has already been shared. Once everyone has shared an observation move on to the reflection portion of the lesson.
3. Consider closing the activity by reading the fable of the Blind Men and the Elephant.
<https://www.peacecorps.gov/educators/resources/story-blind-men-and-elephant/>



REFLECTION & WRAP UP

1. Lead a discussion using some or all the questions below. Discuss how each of us sees things slightly different from each other.
 - How did your view differ from others?
 - Why do each of us see things different from others?
 - Can you accept someone else's view as right? Why? Why Not?
 - Can all perspectives be right?
 - Why are other perspectives valuable?
 - How might this exercise relate to conflict management? What skills did you practice here that could help you resolve a conflict?
 - What strategies could you use to make sure you hear the perspectives of others?
 - What else can we learn from this activity?
 - What will you take away from this exercise to apply to your life?
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NOTES

- **Source:** United States Institute of Peace: <https://www.usip.org/public-education/educators/view-window>
- **Educational Standards:** CASEL: Social Awareness, CASEL: Relationship Skills, P21: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, CCRS:SL3 Evaluate Perspective and Evidence