



VIEW FROM MY WINDOW

An activity that promotes multiple perspective-taking

OBJECTIVES

- Students will consider how their perspective differs from others
- Students will consider the impact of multiple perspectives on conflicts

MATERIALS

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

TIME

20 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, inanimate object in the middle. Each student will write what they see from their perspective.

2. 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 of the questions below. Discuss how each of us sees things slightly different from each other.
 - Why is this?
 - How did your view differ from others?
 - Can you accept someone else's view as right? Why? Why Not?
 - Can all perspectives be right?
 - How might this exercise relate to conflict management? What skills did you practice here that could help you resolve a conflict?
 - How can you be sure to listen to the various perspectives of each other?
 - Why are other perspectives valuable?
 - What else can we learn from this activity?
 - What actionable things can we take away from this exercise?

NOTES

Source: United States Institute of Peace: <https://www.usip.org/public-education/educators/view-window>

Educational Standards: CASEL: Self Awareness, CASEL: Social Awareness, CASEL: Relationship Skills, P21: Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, P21: Communication and Collaboration P21: Flexibility and Adaptability, P21: Social and Cross-Cultural Skills, CCRS:SL3 Evaluate Perspective and Evidence