

# Perspectives Spotlight

## Introduction



“What you see and what you hear depends a great deal on where you are standing.”  
– C.S. Lewis

### Lesson Summary

This lesson introduces students to perspectives, how they shape who they are, and how they see the world. They explore what ideas and things matter to them while acknowledging how others value different things, leading to differing perspectives.

### Students will Examine

- How perspectives vary depending on lived experiences.
- What is the value of understanding other perspectives?
- How listening is a tool for understanding other perspectives.

### Pre-Activity Prep

- (Optional) Print the Journal cover template ([PDF](#)) (1/student).
- (If not using slides) Print the Image: [W or M?](#) (THINK.GIVE section).
- Print the Worksheet: What Matters to You? ([PDF](#) | [Google](#)) (1/student) (REFLECT section).
- (Optional) Print or digitally share the Exit Ticket ([PDF](#) | [Google](#)) (1/student) (CONNECT + CLOSE section).



#### MATERIALS

ThinkGive Journals  
 Student Journal Guide ([PDF](#))  
 Journal cover template ([PDF](#))  
 Image: [W or M?](#)  
 Worksheet: What Matters to You? ([PDF](#) | [Google](#))  
 Exit Ticket ([PDF](#) | [Google](#))



#### MEDIA TO PREP

Slides: [Introduction](#)

## SHARE

No share in the Introduction; there are no actions to share yet!

# THINK • GIVE

Suggested time: 10 minutes

## What is your Perspective?

**Ask:** How do you define “perspective”?

Show the Image: W or M?

**Discuss (pair/share or journal):**

- What’s happening in the image?
- Why do these two people see the letter differently?
- What might this conversation sound like?
- How does the image connect to perspectives?
- How do our perspectives affect how we communicate with others?
- How are perspectives important to our relationships?

**Explain:** People see things differently depending on their point of view and lived experiences. Like in the image we just looked at, there are often many perspectives—and no “right” answer. However, without exploring other perspectives, it’s easy to assume that ours is the only truth. This attitude can get in the way of connecting with others and strengthening our relationships.



## PERSPECTIVE

noun; a particular attitude toward or a way of understanding something; a point of view.



## CONNECTION

Play a game of telephone to illustrate how we hear things differently. Students sit or stand in a circle. One starts by whispering a sentence to the person next to them, who then whispers it to the next person, continuing until the message reaches the last student, who says it aloud. **Discuss:** How does this connect to perspectives?

# REFLECT

Suggested time: 15 minutes

## What Matters to You?

Hand out the Worksheet: What Matters to You? ([PDF](#) | [Google](#)) (1/student). This worksheet lists ideas and things—Kindness, Popularity, Honesty, Grades, Creativity, Religion, Family, Country, Freedom, and Money—and asks students to rank how they perceive their importance. Before starting, brainstorm other ideas and things to add to the list. Then, students rank the ideas and things, considering the reasons for their ranking.

**Discuss:**

- Why do we all rank these ideas and things differently?
- How can these rankings help us understand other perspectives?
- What contributes to people having different perspectives?



## CONNECTION

**Activity:** Listening and Communications Skills ([PDF](#)) (Counselor Keri). This partner activity offers a visual way to help students understand perspectives.



## TEACHER TIP

Model a discussion by sharing your ranking and explaining your reasoning.

Students find a partner and compare their rankings, exploring the following topics:

- Their reasons for their rankings.
- People who have influenced them.
- How their experiences and upbringing impacted their rankings.

#### Discuss:

- Were there moments when you disagreed with your partner as they were sharing? Were you able to avoid making a judgment? If so, how?
- What new ideas or questions about perspectives did this activity bring up for you?
- How was this activity valuable for exploring perspectives?

#### DIGGING DEEPER

- How does taking the time to understand other perspectives help reduce the impulse to judge others? How might this practice make big changes in our world?

#### CONNECTION

Video: [The Blind Men and the Elephant](#) (3:08). Six blind men encounter an elephant for the first time and perceive it differently based on their limited experiences. Discuss: What new ideas or questions about perspectives do you have?

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## CONNECT + CLOSE

#### Take Action

Explain: Between now and our next ThinkGive session [give date], practice listening to others to understand their thoughts, feelings, and/or motivations. Consider why they might have a different perspective.

#### Things to Consider

- Did listening start a meaningful discussion or provide an opportunity for kindness?
- Did listening expose you to a new perspective?
- Did your perspective change after understanding someone else's?

#### Closing Quote

Use this quote to close out the lesson. The reflective questions could serve as an Exit Ticket ([PDF](#) | [Google](#)).

*“What you see and what you hear depends a great deal on where you are standing.” – C.S. Lewis*

- What action(s) can you take to be sure to stand in different places?




#### ★ THINKGIVE THREE

1. True: be authentic
2. Small: small is all
3. Brave: step into your courage zone




#### CONNECTION

C.S. Lewis (1898–1963) was an Irish-born scholar, novelist, and author of about 40 books, including *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

## Reflection Questions

-  Who did you listen to? How was their perspective different from yours?
-  Did listening allow you to understand someone's perspective? Explain.
-  What felt challenging about perspective-taking? What felt easier?

## Journal Questions

-  How do people form their perspectives?
-  What is the value in hearing other perspectives?
-  Where are spaces in your life where you might hear other perspectives?