

Perspectives Spotlight

Introduction



grades 6-8



45 minutes

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

Lesson Summary

In this lesson, students are introduced to the concept of perspectives and how individual experiences influence the way people interpret the world. Through personal reflection and discussion, students explore what matters most to them and begin to understand that others may hold different values and priorities. This awareness fosters empathy and highlights the diversity of perspectives in our communities and beyond.

Students will Examine

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

Pre-Activity Prep

- (For offline programs) Print the Participant Profile Template ([PDF](#)) (1/student) (SHARE section).
- (For offline programs) Print or display the Sample Participant Profile ([PDF](#)) to guide students (SHARE section).
- (If not using slides) Print the Image: W or M? ([PDF](#)) (THINK.GIVE section).
- Choose one version and print the Worksheet: What Matters to You? ([PDF](#) | [Google](#)) (1/student) (REFLECT section).



MATERIALS

ThinkGive Three Posters (Yellow [PDF](#) | Purple [PDF](#))
ThinkGive Journals
Journal Cover Template ([PDF](#))
Student Journal Guide ([PDF](#))
Participant Profile Template ([PDF](#))
Sample Participant Profile ([PDF](#))
Quote Image ([PDF](#))
Image: W or M? ([PDF](#))
Worksheet: What Matters to You? ([PDF](#) | [Google](#))



MEDIA TO PREP

Slides: [Introduction](#) | Slide Notes ([PDF](#))

SHARE

Suggested time: 5 minutes

Set Up Student Profiles

If Using the Online Portal:

Students log in to their My Page to set up their User Profile. They can choose a color, upload an image, and write about themselves in the "About Me" section.

If Working Offline:

Hand out the Participant Profile Template (Offline) ([PDF](#)) (1/student). Students create their profiles. When finished, post them on the wall or bulletin board designated for displaying student actions throughout the program. For inspiration, show the Sample Participant Profile ([PDF](#)).

OPEN

Suggested time: 5 minutes

Quote/Image

Display the Quote Image ([PDF](#)) and/or read the quote or invite a volunteer to read it (see slides): "What you see and what you hear depends a great deal on where you are standing." – C.S. Lewis

Ask: What does this image/quote mean to you?

THINK • GIVE

Suggested time: 10 minutes

What is Your Perspective?

Ask: What does "perspective" mean to you?

Show the Image: W or M? ([PDF](#))

Discuss (pair/share or journal):

- What's happening in this image?
- Why might these two people see the letter differently?
- What could their conversation sound like?
- How does the picture connect to the idea of perspectives?
- How can our perspectives shape how we talk and listen to others?
- Why are different perspectives important in relationships?



PERSPECTIVE

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

Explain: People don't always see things the same way because everyone has different life experiences, backgrounds, and ways of thinking. It's like looking at the same picture from different angles—each person might notice something different, and all of them can be right in their way. But if we only think about our point of view, we might not understand where others are coming from. When we practice seeing things from someone else's perspective, we become better at understanding, communicating, and building positive relationships with others.

CONNECTION

Play a game of telephone to show how people interpret things differently. Students sit or stand in a circle. One student whispers a sentence to the next, continuing around until the last person says it aloud. **Discuss:** How did the message change? How does this connect to the idea of perspectives?

REFLECT

Suggested time: 15 minutes

What Matters to You?

This activity helps students better understand what they care about and begins to highlight how personal values shape individual perspectives.

Hand out the [Worksheet: What Matters to You?](#) ([PDF](#) | [Google](#)) (1/student). This worksheet presents a list of values and concepts, including: Kindness, Popularity, Honesty, Academics, Creativity, Religion/Spirituality, Family, Health, Freedom, and Money. Invite students to brainstorm additional values or ideas to add to the list. Students then rank each value based on its importance to them and reflect on why they assigned that ranking.

Discuss:

- Why might people rank these values differently?
- How can our rankings help us better understand other perspectives?

Students pair up to compare and discuss their rankings. Encourage them to explore:

- What influenced their rankings (e.g., life experiences, role models)?
- Whether they noticed any surprises or patterns.
- How they responded to differences in rankings—were they curious or judgmental?

CONNECTION

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

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 experiences. **Discuss:** What new ideas or questions about perspectives do you have?

TEACHER TIP

Model the activity by sharing your rankings and briefly explaining your reasons. Show students how to reflect on their choices and talk respectfully about what matters to them.

Discuss:

- If you disagreed with your partner, did you feel judgment or curiosity?
- **NOTE:** Remind students that judgment is a natural response—learning to notice it and choose curiosity instead is part of perspective-taking.
- What new ideas or questions did this activity bring up for you?
- What influences someone's perspective? (e.g., experiences, upbringing, or culture)?
- Why is it important to explore and understand other perspectives?

DIGGING DEEPER

Discuss:

- How can understanding different perspectives reduce judgment?
- How might this shift help create a more inclusive world?

CONNECT + CLOSE

Take Action

Explain: Between now and our next ThinkGive session on [give date], focus on listening to others with the goal of understanding their point of view. Reflect on why their perspective might differ from yours.

Things to Consider

- Everyone has a perspective, and it may differ from yours.
- Listening with curiosity helps in understanding other viewpoints.
- Exploring different perspectives broadens our understanding of the world.

Brainstorm Actions

N/A

Closing Quote

Use this Quote and/or Image ([PDF](#)) to close the lesson. "What you see and what you hear depends a great deal on where you are standing."
– C.S. Lewis

Discuss:

- What does this quote/image mean to you now?
- How does this quote/image connect to the lesson?

★ THINKGIVE THREE

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




🎥 CONNECTION

Use journaling to deepen reflection and strengthen writing skills—students respond online or use the Journal Questions: Introduction ([PDF](#)) if working offline.



🎥 CONNECTION

C.S. Lewis (1898–1963), born Clive Staples Lewis, was an Irish-British scholar and author of over 30 books, including The Chronicles of Narnia series.

Reflection Questions

-  Who did you listen to, and how was their perspective different from yours?
-  Did listening to this person allow you to understand their perspective better? How?
-  What was challenging about taking on someone else's perspective? What was easier?

Journal Questions

-  How do you think people form their perspectives?
-  In what areas of your life could you be more open to hearing different perspectives?