

Intended for Grades: 4-8 **Estimated Time:** 20-40 min.

Lesson Title: PERSPECTIVES - To Each Our Own

Lesson Purpose: Students will:

- * Better understand listening/communication skills
- * Learn there are many ways to look at the same thing
- * Be aware that our personal perspectives make us who we are
- * Recognize that individual differences keep relationships interesting
- * Learn that different points of view can be useful

Materials & Preparation:

- * Copy paper (recycled paper okay; use same size & color 8.5 x 11")
- * Young / Old Woman Optical Illusion Image (*copies or project for students; see below*)

Background Information:

Clear communication is extremely important and can also be a challenge. After listening to the same instructions to create a snowflake, students realize that people interpret things differently. Communication can be improved when we understand how uniquely each person interprets information, and how important it is to check for understanding.

We all look at things through our own sense of self, and that is what makes us unique and different. These different perspectives can lead to disagreements, *and* they can also lead to incredible breakthroughs due to expanded awareness. Appreciating individual perspectives is always enlightening.

Steps:

1. Pass out one paper to each student. Ask them to work individually and follow your directions without asking questions. Older students might be asked to close their eyes while doing this activity. Remind younger students to not look at anyone else.
2. Give the following directions quickly without clarifying exactly what you mean:
 1. Fold the paper in half and tear off a top corner.
 2. Fold it in half again and tear off a bottom corner.
 3. Fold it in half again and tear off the left corner.
 4. Rotate the paper three times and tear off a piece in the middle of the bottom.
3. Tell students to open their papers and hold them up to compare their snowflakes.
4. Hold a discussion about what similarities and differences they see. Possible discussion prompts:
 - * Why are the snowflakes different when everyone received the same instructions?
(*Everyone perceived directions differently; all followed, so none were right or wrong.*)
 - * *What might have changed if you could have asked questions?*
5. Make sure students have a pencil/pen and paper out, prepared to write a reflection. Remind them to do this next activity on their own, with no talking and no questions.

Tell them they will see a picture and they are to describe what they see. Project or distribute the picture below.

6. Discuss their perspectives and review main concepts. The following discussion prompts are offered:

- * *How do these activities demonstrate the importance of clear communication?*
- * *When might different perspectives be useful or helpful?*
- * *Have you ever told someone something and they heard something else? What happened? How did you deal with it?*
- * *When is your perspective the only correct one?*
- * *What are some simple things we can all do to communicate better?*

Additional Reflection Questions:

- * *What is something you want to remember from this lesson?*
- * *How can listening well help you in life?*
- * *What is one thing you plan to do to communicate better?*

Resource:



