

Circle of Viewpoints

1. I am thinking of ... (name the event/ issue).... from the point of view of



2. I think ... (describe the topic from your viewpoint)... **Because** ... (explain your reasoning)

3. A question or concern I have from this viewpoint is

purpose

This routine focuses on perspective taking. It helps learners to identify and consider these different and diverse perspectives involved in and around a topic, issue or event.

Digging Deeper Into Ideas

PURPOSE

What kind of thinking does this routine encourage?

This routine helps learners identify and consider different and diverse perspectives. This process creates a greater awareness of how others may be thinking and feeling and reinforces that people can and do think differently about the same things. This routine also provides the structure to assist learners in exploring a particular viewpoint.

APPLICATION

When and where can it be used?

Use this routine:

- Brainstorm and explore new perspectives about a topic and explore questions around that
- Exploring different perspectives of characters in a text

ASSESSMENT

How can I use this routine as an assessment?

- Noticing how clearly learners differentiate the viewpoints demonstrates an understanding that more than one viewpoint is possible and can indeed be valid.
- Are they merely stating their own position or do they express thoughts and ideas different from what they themselves hold?
- Attend to the complexity of the questions they pose from that perspective - clarifying or probing? Broad or general?

LAUNCH

What are the steps needed for starting and using this routine?

1. **Set up** → Introduce the source material and provide plenty of time for examination. Identify and name the topic(s) the class will be trying to understand better. Display topic.
2. **Identify Viewpoints** → Generate a list of viewpoints. Record these in a circle around the listed topic.
3. **Select a Viewpoint to Explore** → Select a viewpoint to explore. If working in small group you may wish to ask each group to select a different viewpoint - to create a richer and more complete exploration of the topic or issue. Use the prompt *I am thinking of ... from the point of view of ...*
4. **I Think** → Take on the character of their viewpoint & describe the topic from this perspective using the *I think ...* Prompt. Provide recording time.
5. **A question** → Ask students to imagine what this person or thing might be puzzled or curious about and create questions from this viewpoint. Prompt. Provide recording time.
6. **Share the Thinking** → Decide whether sharing will happen in small groups or whole class. Initially, a whole group will provide students with lots of models and give you a chance to assess everyone's efforts.

Adapted by Alice Vigors 2017