

Thinking routines: taking perspective

The thinking routines below are designed to help learners:

- *Understand and value one's own perspective*
- *Understand and empathize with others*
- *Appreciate the dynamism of cultures and perspectives*

What makes you say that?

A thinking routine for building explanations

1. Look at this [image, video, text, object, situation]
2. What's going on?
3. What do you see that makes you say that?

Source: Artful Thinking, Project Zero

For more information go visit the [Project Zero toolbox](#).

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Connect – Extend – Challenge

A thinking routine for connecting new ideas to prior knowledge

Connect: How are the ideas and information presented connected to what you already knew?

Extend: What new ideas did you get that extended or pushed your thinking in new directions?

Challenge: What is still challenging or confusing for you to get your mind around? What questions, wonderings or puzzles do you now have?

Source: Visible Thinking, Project Zero

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Step In – Step Out – Step Back

A thinking routine to take social/cultural perspective responsibly

Choose: Identify a person or agent in the situation you are examining.

Step In: Given what you see and know at this time, what do you think this person might feel, believe, know, or experience?

Step out: What else would you like or need to learn to understand this person's perspective better?

Step back: Given your exploration of this perspective so far, what do you notice about your own perspective and what it takes to take somebody else's?

Source: ID & Global Studies, Project Zero

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Circle of Viewpoints

A thinking routine for exploring diverse perspectives

Brainstorm a list of different perspectives and then use this script to explore of one:

- **I am thinking of...**the topic...**from the point of view of...**the perspective/viewpoint you've chosen.
- **I think...**describe the topic from your viewpoint. Be an actor – take on the character of your viewpoint.
- **A Question I have from this viewpoint is...**ask a question from this viewpoint.
- **Wrap up:** What new ideas do you have about the topic that you didn't have before?
What new questions do you have?

Note: Role playing when discussing race, identity, overt expressions of racial intolerance prejudice are strongly discouraged.

Adapted from: Visible Thinking Project, Project Zero

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