Revealing Perspectives, Reforming through Activism

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Overarching Teaching/Learning Goal: Develop and support students’ active civic engagement

Session Objectives:

- Identify key considerations for selecting primary sources for instructional use.
- Analyze a set of related primary sources to identify multiple perspectives.
- Present a primary source-based activity that helps students engage in learning, develop critical thinking skills and construct knowledge.
Overarching Goal: Develop and support students’ active civic engagement

1. Concept Development: Multiple Perspectives
   - Primary Source Analysis
   - Circle of Viewpoints Routine
   - Connect-Extend-Challenge Routine

2. Application of Learning/Civic Engagement
   - Explore Possible Projects
   - Take Action
   - Assess Impact
Six Blind Men and the Elephant
An Indian Folk Tale about Multiple Perspectives

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBqgr5xZLz0
The moral of the story…
Each of us has a unique perspective!

“Can we swap glasses? It might help me to see your point of view!”
3 Strategies for Concept Development: Multiple Perspectives

1. Primary Source Analysis
2. Circle of Viewpoints Routine
3. Connect-Extend-Challenge Routine
1. Primary Source Analysis Activity

**OBSERVE**

**REFLECT**

**QUESTION**

FURTHER INVESTIGATION

http://www.loc.gov/teachers/usingprimarysources/guides.html
Bohemian Cigar Makers at Work, 1889–1890.
Photographed by Jacob Riis.
Modern gelatin printing out paper.
Museum of the City of New York
Gift of Roger William Riis
(90.13.4.149) (027.00.00)

https://www.loc.gov/exhibits/jacob-riis/images/90_13_4_149_enlarge.jpg
Let's Talk About It …

How do you think these people are feeling?

How do you feel about the people in the image?
Let's Talk About It …

How do you think these people are feeling?

How do you feel about the people in the image?

Would you want to be one of them? Why/why not?

What more do you want to know?
**Reflect on the process:**

How does PS analysis support perspective taking?
3 Strategies for Concept Development: Multiple Perspectives

1. Primary Source Analysis
2. Circle of Viewpoints Routine
3. Connect-Extend-Challenge Routine
2. Circle of Viewpoints Routine

http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking_html_files/03_ThinkingRoutines/03e_FairnessRoutines/CircleViewpoints/CircleViewpoints_Routine.html
I’m exploring this image from the point of view of ___________________.

This person would think ....

This person would say....

This person might ask ....

This person would think ....
Let’s Reconsider …

After considering these various perspectives, has your own perception changed? If so, how? Why?

How do you feel about the people in the image? Would you want to be one of them?

Reflect on the process: How does Circle of Viewpoints support perspective taking?
3 Strategies for Concept Development: Multiple Perspectives

1. Primary Source Analysis

2. Circle of Viewpoints Routine

3. Connect-Extend-Challenge Routine
3. Connect-Extend-Challenge

Connect:
Considering all that you have learned so far…

… why do you think this photo was taken?
… who might the photographer be?

http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/VisibleThinking_html_files/03_ThinkingRoutines/03d_UnderstandingRoutines/ConnectExtendChallenge/ConnectExtend_Routine.html
Jacob Riis  journalist, social reformer

(1849-1914)

- Born in Denmark
- Immigrated to US in 1870
- Lived in poverty several years
- Newspaper police reporter
- Recognized the harsh realities faced by immigrants in NYC
- Documented the slums of Manhattan’s Lower East Side
Jacob Riis journalist, social reformer

- Shocked readers
- Photography as powerful tool
- Tenement house law reform
- Programs for children
Extend:
Remembering that each of us has a unique perspective…
How Can Individuals Create Change?
How did Jacob Riis make a difference?

Identified a PROBLEM

• Poverty
• Housing
• Public health
• Child labor
How did Jacob Riis make a difference?

Identified a

**PROBLEM**
- Poverty
- Housing
- Public health
- Child labor

Used his

**STRENGTHS**
- Writing
- Photography
- Notoriety
How did Jacob Riis make a difference?

Identified a PROBLEM
- Poverty
- Housing
- Public health
- Child labor

Used his STRENGTHS
- Writing
- Photography
- Notoriety

Jacob helped bring CHANGE
By educating people on the issues
Challenge:
Can children (like you) create change?
YES! Children like you CAN create change.

- Grace Bedell, age 11, helped Abraham Lincoln win the presidency.
YES! Children like you **CAN** create change.

- Grace Bedell, age 11, helped Abraham Lincoln win the presidency.
- These children helped make child labor illegal.
YES! Children like you CAN create change.

- Grace Bedell, age 11, helped Abraham Lincoln win the presidency.
- These children helped make child labor illegal.
- These children created a garden and grew fresh vegetables for their school.
YES! Children like you CAN create change.

What do you want to change?
Application of Learning/Civic Engagement

Explore Possible Projects

Take Action

Assess Impact
Civic Engagement Projects

Define the Challenge—
Class brainstorms issues and possible ways to address each.
Individual students decide which issue will address.

Develop the Project Plan—
Students draft an action plan.
Work with peers, teacher, or others to finalize their plans.

Present the Plan—
Present plans to authentic audience (parents, community members, etc.)
Gather support and consider feedback

Take Action!
Examples of Civic Engagement Projects

Did we overcome racism yet?
Students conducted and recorded the experiences of a community member.

Were the Whiskey Rebels champions of the common man or treasonous traitors?
Students wrote to councilmen proposing monuments to local heros.

How Did Birds Gain Political Protection?
Students created persuasive posters and flyers to inform others of the harmful effects of buying certain consumer products.
Develop and support students’ active civic engagement

1. Develop students’ ability to see multiple perspectives
   - Primary Source Analysis – Begin with familiar process
   - Circle of Viewpoints Routine – Develop appreciation for others’ views
   - Connect-Extend-Challenge Routine – Empower students

2. Application of Learning/Civic Engagement
   - Explore Possible Projects – Make it personal
   - Take Action – Provide opportunities for real-world application
   - Assess Impact – Celebrate accomplishments!
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