


# Social Studies Skills - Perspective

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## What is Perspective?

**Perspective** means the way someone sees or understands an event, issue, or situation.

It's shaped by their experiences, beliefs, age, culture, and role in the situation.

 Think of it like wearing different glasses—each person sees the world a little differently.

## Why is Perspective Important in Social Studies?

- It helps us **understand history and current events more fairly**.
- It reminds us that **there's more than one side to every story**.
- It builds **empathy**, so we can see how others feel and think—even if we don't agree.
- It helps us make better decisions that **respect different needs and voices**.

## How Many Perspectives are there?

There are as many perspectives, as there are opinions. Let's look at an example:

### Modern-Day Topic: Proposal to Convert Public Land into an Off-Leash Dog Park

**Scenario:** A local community is debating whether to turn a piece of unused public land (a small field, greenbelt, or wooded area) into an off-leash dog park. Some residents support the idea, while others have concerns.

#### Eight Different Perspectives:

- 1. Dog Owner**
  - *Perspective* Very supportive of the idea. Wants a safe space for dogs to run and play freely.
  - *Voice* "My dog needs exercise and social time. An off-leash park would be amazing for our pets and build community."
- 2. Parent of a Young Child**
  - *Perspective* Concerned about safety and sharing space with dogs.
  - *Voice* "What if a dog gets too rough? I want my kids to play safely without worrying about unleashed animals."
- 3. Elderly Resident Who Enjoys Quiet Walks**
  - *Perspective* Prefers peaceful, quiet nature and is worried about noise or being startled by dogs.
  - *Voice* "I walk here every morning for peace and quiet. I'm worried barking and running dogs will ruin that."
- 4. Environmental Group Member**
  - *Perspective* Concerned about the impact on wildlife, plants, and natural habitats.
  - *Voice* "This area is home to birds, rabbits, and native plants. A dog park could destroy their habitat."
- 5. Teenager Who Skates or Bikes Nearby**
  - *Perspective* Neutral but curious. May lose some open space but open to compromise.
  - *Voice* "We hang out here sometimes. If there's still room for skating or trails, I'm cool with it."
- 6. City Planner or Local Government Official**
  - *Perspective* Balancing public needs, safety, budget, and land use rules.
  - *Voice* "We have to consider everyone. Can we make this work while meeting environmental and safety standards?"
- 7. Resident With a Dog Allergy or Fear of Dogs**
  - *Perspective* Strongly opposed. Worried about unexpected dog encounters.
  - *Voice* "I avoid dogs because of allergies. I don't want to lose one of the few dog-free green spaces in our area."
- 8. Homeless Person Who Occasionally Uses the Space for Shelter**
  - *Perspective* Vulnerable and often overlooked. May lose a place to rest.
  - *Voice* "I don't have anywhere else to go. People walk by me here, but at least it's quiet and out of the way."

For the following scenario, identify 8 different perspectives (think of 8 people who would all think differently about the same topic):

Scenario: A student suggests getting a class pet. What are 8 potential perspectives on having a class pet or not?

<p><b>Person #1:</b> _____</p> <p>What might they think: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>	<p><b>Person #1:</b> _____</p> <p>What might they think: _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>
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