Political Perspectives:

“What you see and hear depends a good deal on where you are standing: it also depends on what sort of person you are” – C.S. Lewis



Focus: Why do people have different political perspectives?

How is it that what one group sees as absolutely right another believes is absolutely wrong? Why might one person be certain that a solution is to do more, while another is convinced it is to do less?

The concept of political perspective helps explain why people and groups can hold different and even opposite points of view about the same issue, event, person, or policy, and how those views affect their actions.

Your political perspective is shaped by who you are as a person and the communities to which you belong. Your beliefs can be personal or political. Your community can be a physical place (where you live) or a virtual place (where you meet with people with similar interests).

Perspective and Point of View:

Perspective means that what you see or think is affected not only by your beliefs and values, but also by your point of view on issues. For example, someone directly affected by an issue sees it differently or has a different point of view from someone who is not directly affected.

A person’s or group’s point of view can also change over time or be different for different issues.

Questions about political perspective are not always straightforward. Individuals can hold conflicting political perspectives.



Analysis Questions:

1. What are the consequences of not considering the perspectives of others?
2. How might the political perspective of someone who felt included, important, and advantaged differ from someone who felt excluded, unimportant, and disadvantaged?
3. How do you react when others ignore or reject your perspective or beliefs?