

CONSIDER

EXPLORING PERSPECTIVE TAKING THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

We invite you to use this card as your guide to expand your experience while you explore the photography galleries at the George Eastman Museum. With this tool, we hope to encourage you to take a deeper dive into understanding the perspectives you hold, the perspectives of others, the reality of our differences, and the insight that awareness provides.

Consider the questions below:

What is perspective?

A way of thinking about something based on a personal point of view.

What is perspective taking?

When we look at a situation from someone else's point of view, or we "put ourselves in their shoes."

What is empathy?

The ability to understand and share in someone else's feelings or experiences by imagining what it would be like to be in that person's situation.

As you consider these questions throughout the museum's exhibitions, also think about the power perspective taking and empathy can have on our relationships with others.

Do you find that other questions emerge on your journey?

If so, where will you look for answers?

Once you find answers, what steps will you take?

The Benefits of Perspective Taking and Empathy

The social skills of **perspective taking** and the ability to empathize help us to create support systems. A support system could be a network of family, friends, or peers that allows us to seek understanding, perceive differences, and gain awareness in various situations.

When we **seek understanding**, we listen to one another. Often it is helpful to respond, "What I heard you say was...". That way, we can check our understanding of what we heard and acknowledge the other person's perspective of the situation.

When we **perceive differences**, we realize that our lived experience is different from someone else's lived experience. To avoid assumptions from our perspective, consider the circumstances, preferences, and cultural influences of another person.

When we **gain awareness**, we gather information related to the situation. That knowledge informs our understanding and allows us to respond, ideally moving toward a positive outcome inclusive of different perspectives.

Learn More About Perspective Taking

Learning For Justice:
learningforjustice.org

Harvard Graduate School of Education Project Zero:
Thinking Routines Toolbox
pz.harvard.edu/thinking-routines

Perspective Taking
pz.harvard.edu/thinking-routines#PerspectiveTaking