

Attendance and Achievement: **Guadalupe Fonseca**

Lesson Title: **Two Sides of the Same Coin**

Grade Level: **Middle School**



Topic

Understanding others' perspectives

Essential Question

How does looking at a story from different perspectives affect our understanding?

Materials

- Paper and writing utensils
- OPTIONAL: Two Sides of the Same Coin, 2-page handout

Procedure

1. Ask students to think about a time when they had an argument or at least didn't eye-to-eye with a parent, teacher, or another adult in their life. The conflict they choose can be about a misunderstanding or something that was unfair.
2. Once students have thought of their topic, they should make two columns on a piece of paper/on the computer (or you can use the attached handout). On the left side students should list their feelings, opinions, and reactions to the conflict. On the right side they should list the adult's feelings opinions and reactions to the conflict. Students should end up with at least three examples for each column.
3. Instruct students to write two distinct paragraphs about the conflict.
 - The first paragraph will be written in first person (**NOTE:** you may need to review with students an example of first person writing – when we write in first person we use the pronoun “I”) from their perspective. Students should clearly explain the problem including details and emotions. This paragraph will support the student's perspective and should read like a descriptive retelling of the conflict and an attempt to change the adult's mind.
 - The second paragraph should be written from the adult's perspective, but also in the first person. This should force students into the adult's head and will require them to use the brainstormed ideas that they generated in the two-column worksheet. Students should make sure to include the adult's emotions. This paragraph should be a deep look into the fears and rationale of the adult.

4. In a whole-class discussion, ask students to reflect on the exercise that they just completed: How do our personal experiences shape our perspective on events and ideas? How can the same situation be so different from other people's perspectives?
5. Now consider Lupe's story from different perspectives:

NOTE: You may want to replay the video starting at 00:42 seconds.

- What was it like for Lupe to have to move back and forth between Mexico and the United States throughout her childhood?
- What are some of Lupe's father's concerns that motivate him to move the family to and from Mexico and the United States?
- How does Lupe's father feel about having to move his family back and forth between Mexico and the United States?
- What aspects of Lupe's father's body language indicate how he feels?

Conclusion

Return to the essential question of the lesson and ask students to consider: How does looking at a story from different perspectives affect our understanding?

Notes

Two Sides of the Same Coin: Understanding the same story from different PERSPECTIVES

Name _____ Date _____

Directions Part 1

Think about a time when you had an argument or at least didn't see eye-to-eye with a parent, teacher or another adult in your life. The conflict might be about a misunderstanding or something you felt was unfair.

In the left-hand column below, list your feelings, opinions, and reactions to the conflict. In the right-hand column, list the adult's feelings, opinions, and reactions to the conflict. You should have at least three examples for each column.

My Perspective	_____ 's Perspective
1	
2	
3	
4	

Directions Part 2:

Write two paragraphs using the lists you created in the table.

1. The first paragraph will be written in first person (when we write in first person we use the pronoun "I") from YOUR perspective. Explain, in detail, the conflict that you chose. Be sure to include your feelings/emotions about the issue. This paragraph will support your perspective and should read like a descriptive retelling of the conflict and an attempt to change the adult's mind.

2. Put yourself in the shoes of the adult in your conflict. Write a second paragraph from the adult's perspective, but also in the first person (using the pronoun "I"). Get into the adult's head. Use the ideas that you brainstormed in the two-column worksheet. Make sure to include the adult's emotions. This paragraph should be a deep look into the fears and rationale of the adult.
