

# Activity 1.2 Developing Collaborative Perspective<sup>1</sup>

## Description

This activity opens up the conversation and makes visible the need to gain a broader perspective of issues in order to effectively explore and address them. What we individually know and experience is important, what we can't see is just as important in understanding a complex issue.

## Learning Goal

- Acknowledge the limitations of individual vantage points and develop appreciation for the perspectives of others.

## Practice (35 minutes)

<b>Step One</b>	<p>In small groups (5-6 ppl), a puzzle piece will be given to each participant. Use pieces from a puzzle with a recognizable image but large enough that any one piece will only have a fraction of the total image.</p> <p>Do not show the puzzle piece to anyone else.</p> <p><i>Look at your individual puzzle pieces and write down what you think the image may be.</i></p>	<b>5 min</b>
<b>Step Two</b>	<p>Members of each group will <b>describe and discuss their puzzle pieces</b>, but without showing them to one another. Be descriptive. Participants will ask questions about others' puzzle pieces. The group will start to identify what the puzzle image might be based only on descriptions.</p>	<b>10 min</b>

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<sup>1</sup> **Citation for this activity:** Lori Britt (2023). Developing Collaborative Perspective. In S.W. Hartman, Britt, L. & Byrd, J. (Eds). *The Interactivity Foundation Collaborative Discussion Toolkit*. Retrieved from <https://www.collaborativediscussionproject.com/module-1-introduction-to-collaborat>

	<p>Tip: This activity can be altered by adding a twist. At the beginning of the discussion, secretly assign one student to offer misleading or inaccurate information. The purpose of this role is to later encourage participants to reflect upon and address issues of intentional misinformation and/or deception in group communication.</p>	
<b>Step Three</b>	<p>Next, show pieces to others in the group and look at them all together. Discuss what they can now see and as a group, <b><i>put forth guesses of what the overall image might be.</i></b></p> <p>Hold up or show the image of the completed puzzle.</p>	<b>5 min</b>
<b>Step Four</b>	<p><b><i>Debrief as a group:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● How did descriptions of other people’s puzzle pieces alter your initial views of what the picture might be?</li> <li>● Could you understand what each person was describing or did you have to ask clarifying questions?</li> <li>● How did your perspective change when you saw others’ puzzle pieces?</li> <li>● After being shown the full image, what were you not able to see that would have helped you identify the image?</li> <li>● Twist: How does this puzzle activity relate to situations that you experience at work, class, or you see nationally where people intentionally use misinformation?</li> <li>● Twist: What happens to the power of the group when one person is deliberately trying to mislead others?</li> </ul>	<b>15 min</b>
<p><b>Tip: Consider building on this activity with <a href="#">3.5 Seeking Divergent Thinking &amp; Perspectives</a></b></p>		

## Reflection Assignment

Think about an issue that you care about. From your perspective, what is at the core of this issue? How would you address it? Now, try to imagine how someone with very different lived experiences from you might think about this issue. What might they ask you? How would you respond? Bring in a third person to your imagined conversation. Perhaps a person who holds very different values. Ask this person how they would frame and solve this issue. What do they say? How do the three of you discuss this issue? Has the complexity of the issue expanded? Have you rethought how you might frame it? Does this new framing change how you think about solutions for moving forward? Playful twist: try writing up this reflection as a conversation, play, or short story.

## Practice Journal

This week, before you share your opinion about an event or situation (maybe an issue at work, home, or a public concern), pause and ask at least 2 other people their opinions about the topic. You might ask: How do you understand this issue? From your perspective, what is the core issue or concern? Then reflect upon how your opinion may or may not have changed based on the perspectives of others.

## Dive Deeper: Additional Resources

- David W. Johnson, "[The Importance of Taking the Perspective of Others](#)," Psychology Today (June 5, 2019)