



What Shapes Your Worldview?

*I cannot be a teacher
without exposing who I
am.*

– Paulo Freire

Facilitator's Note:

Be intentional about how you frame this conversation. Communicate to participants that while these conversations may be difficult, this is a step towards addressing cultural gaps between students and teachers.

It is strongly recommended to establish group norms prior to engaging in this activity.

Suggested norms include but are not limited to:

- Address the idea, not the person
- Be fully present and engaged in activities
- Consider the impact of your words and actions on others

Objective:

- Understand the concept of worldviews and how they are formed and changed
- Reflect through critical questioning upon your own worldview and where it comes from
- Examine how personal worldviews influence how educators, students, and families approach an education space.

Context:

Everyone has a worldview, whether they are aware of it or not. Our worldviews shape how we understand and interact with the world around us. Worldviews can be shaped by experiences, cultural norms, family dynamics, education, belief systems, media, and other influences.

Key Vocabulary:

Worldview – a mental framework through which individuals and groups view the nature of reality, the nature and purpose of human life, and the laws governing human relationships.

Time: ~120 minutes; If possible, it is recommended that this lesson be divided into multiple sessions.

GETTING STARTED

Pre-Work (45 Minutes):

- Read: [You Are Responsible for Your Worldview](https://bit.ly/2JKbR0t) (<https://bit.ly/2JKbR0t>)
- Watch: [The Danger of A Single Story – Ted Talks, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie](https://youtu.be/D9Ihs241zeg) (<https://youtu.be/D9Ihs241zeg>)

Participants should note portions of the article and video that stand out to them as they are reading and watching and come prepared to discuss the pre-work.

Reflection Questions:

- What is a worldview? What is a single story? What is confirmation bias?
- What were your initial reactions from watching these videos?
- How did the video and article relate to one another?

Introduction (20 minutes):

Discuss pre-work and reflection questions. Allow participants to share any initial reflections from the article, video, or reflection questions.

Additional discussion questions:

- “We see the world, not as it is, but as we are – or, as we are conditioned to see it.” This quote by Dr. Stephen Covey was included in the article. How might individuals be conditioned to see the world in a particular way?
- What factors can shape your worldview? In what ways is your worldview limited?
- How might confirmation bias and worldview influence one another?
- Provide an example of how a limited worldview might contribute to developing single stories.



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"That's at the core of equity: understanding who your kids are and how to meet their needs. You are still focused on outcomes, but the path to get there may not be the same for each one."

Pedro Noguera

ACTIVITY (~60 MINUTES)

Part One: What shapes your worldview?

1. Interaction Mapping (See attached *Interaction Mapping* worksheet)

Have participants take inventory of their social networks using the Interaction Mapping activity. Participants will spend about 10 minutes to individually complete the Interaction Mapping activity and reflection questions. In small groups, have participants discuss their responses to the interaction mapping questions before sharing aloud in the whole group. Some other questions to consider include:

- Did anything surprise you about your interaction map?
- What trends and/or differences in the maps exist among your group?
- How might your worldview have changed or continue to change over time?
- Watch NY Times *"The Life-Changing Magic of Hanging Out."* (<https://nyti.ms/2hWaH4V>) Discuss how this applies to how individuals can expand their worldview.

2. What Shapes Your Worldview? (See attached *What Shapes Your Worldview* worksheet)

Have participants consider other influences on their worldview using the What Shapes Your Worldview activity. Participants will spend about 10 minutes to individually complete this activity and reflection questions. In small groups, have participants discuss their responses to the reflection questions before sharing aloud in the whole group.

Part Two: How does your worldview impact your classroom?

Watch: *Bridging the Gap Between Teachers and Students* (<https://youtu.be/1L3RZn2hPQE>) (8 Minutes)
Discuss initial reactions to the video. In what ways can the worldviews of teachers and students be different?

Read: *Closing the Cultural Gap* (<http://www.nea.org/home/43098.htm>) Have participants spend about 5 minutes independently reading and annotating important issues and ideas highlighted by the article. After reading the article, have participants spend about 20 minutes working in a group to conduct a "5 Why's" analysis on the cultural gaps between teachers and students. Once they have identified a potential root cause, have participants brainstorm potential solutions to address the root cause.

Allow each group to share out their 5 Why's Process in the whole group. As a whole group, discuss what themes and trends emerged in the root causes and solutions provided by each group.

CLOSING AND REFLECTIONS (~10 MINUTES)

Have each participant reflect and share one takeaway and/or action item inspired from this lesson.

Additional Resources:

- 5 Why's Protocol: https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newTMC_5W.htm
- Teaching Tolerance, Classroom Culture <https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/publications/critical-practices-for-antibias-education/classroom-culture>