



## **Windows and Mirrors**

This strategy helps students analyze multiple perspectives. Students determine whether a text, an image, or a video is a window into others' experiences and identities or is a mirror reflecting their own lived experiences and identities.

LEARN.**K20**CENTER.OU.EDU/STRATEGIES

## WINDOWS AND MIRRORS

## **Summary**

This strategy guides students to understand themselves and others through analyzing multiple perspectives. Students determine whether a text, an image, or a video is a window into others' experiences and identities or is a mirror reflecting their own lived experiences and identities. The goal is for students to examine how people's experiences and identities shape their perspectives about themselves and the world.

## **Procedure**

- 1. Choose a text, an image, or a video for students to analyze.
- Next, guide students in identifying the main idea(s) and themes of the selection to establish a general understanding of the text, image, or video.
- 3. Provide students with the following definitions and explain how the concept of "windows" and "mirrors" relates to the curriculum.
  - Window: What you observe does not reflect your experiences that are different from your own.
  - o Mitror: What you observe reflects some of your experience life.
- 4. As students engage with the selection, ask them to think about its main idea(s) and the ways in which it might be a "window" or a "mirror" for them. Have students provide textual evidence to demonstrate their understanding.
- 5. Then, ask students to determine whether the selection was a "window" or a "mirror" for them. You may have students write their responses and/or share their thoughts verbally in small-group or whole-class discussions.

Style, E. (1996). Curriculum as window and mirror. Social science record. http://www.nationalseedproject.org/images/documents/Curriculum\_As\_Window\_and\_Mirror.pdf