

# A DEVELOPING STORY

6-8

## Overview

Is information the same for everyone? Different people have differing perspectives, which impact how information is communicated, read or heard, and used. Civic information – for example about policy, government, citizenship, change, conflict, law, rights and responsibility – is communicated by people in authority, private citizens, and institutions such as government and news media. Informed civic action depends on being able to evaluate and use civic information. In this activity, students will collaborate to create civic information using different perspectives and make real life connections.

## Estimated time

30 minutes (can modify to fit time available)

## Objectives

- Students explore civic information
- Students consider how perspective impacts civic information
- Students use writing to develop and convey civic information using different perspectives
- Students build skills for informed civic action and make real life connections to the content

## Introduction (5 minutes)

- Ask students to think about and share examples where the same information was communicated differently by different people. Ask: Why do you think this happens?
  - One example of this is breaking news at school or in the news
- Ask: do you think it is good or bad for information to be shared differently?
  - Is it good to hear different perspectives?
  - When is it better to hear the same thing from everyone?

## Activity 1 (15 minutes)

### Words

Write these words on the board or share in a document

Power	Authority	Government	Schools	Role
Change	Law	Role	Leader	Election

### Roles

Divide the class into 7 groups, assigning one role to each group

- Candidate A who is politically conservative
- Candidate B who is politically liberal
- A voter in this election
- A citizen who is undecided about the candidates and issues but wants to make a difference
- A person of authority, such as a government leader
- Someone from school district who is responsible for talking with media and public
- A person connected to a school (can be a student, teacher, etc.)

### *Topic*

Something good that happened in a school that drew the attention of media, candidates, officials, and the public (students can draw from a real event or make one up)

### *Write the first paragraph*

- Inform your students they will be working collaboratively in the groups
- Groups will write a short paragraph about the topic from using the first person perspective of their assigned role
- The paragraph might include opinions from the person and what they saw, heard, experienced, etc.
- Groups should incorporate at least 5 of the listed words into their work

### *Write the second paragraph*

- Groups should now write a second paragraph about the same topic, changing to the role of a journalist who is covering the same topic or story
- This paragraph should cover the facts about what happened, with no opinions

### *Activity 2 (10 minutes)*

- Ask each group to read what they wrote
- Groups remain in their roles as they listen to the other group stories
- Discuss: How does perspective influence how information is communicated and heard?