

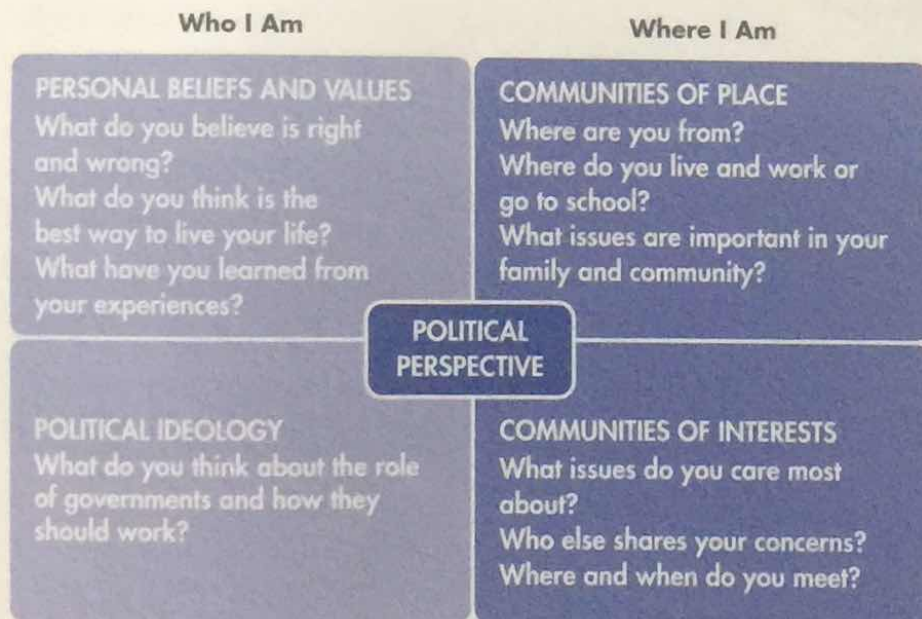
# THINKING CONCEPT

## Political perspective

### FOCUS: Why do people have different political perspectives?

How is it that what one group sees as absolutely right another believes is absolutely wrong? Why might one person be certain that a solution is to do more, while another is convinced it is to do less? The concept of **political perspective** helps explain why people and groups can hold different and even opposite points of view about the same issue, event, person, or policy, and how those views affect their actions.

Your political perspective is shaped by who you are as a person and the communities to which you belong. Your beliefs can be personal or political. Your community can be a physical place (where you live) or a virtual place (where you meet with people who share similar interests).



"What you see and hear depends a good deal on where you are standing: it also depends on what sort of person you are."

CS Lewis

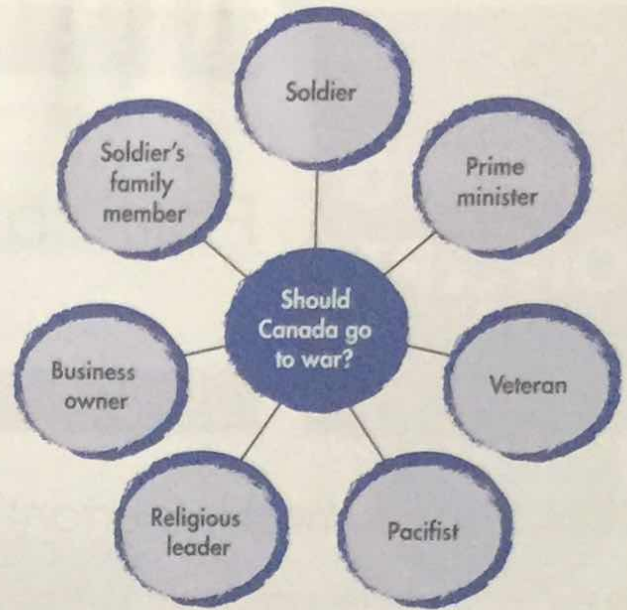


▲ **SOURCE 1:** What if your beliefs, values, and ideology are different from someone else's? Who is right?

## Perspective and point of view

Perspective means that what you see or think is affected not only by your beliefs and values, but also by your point of view on issues. For example, someone directly affected by an issue sees it differently or has a different point of view from someone who is not directly affected. A person's or group's point of view can also change over time or be different for different issues.

Questions about political perspective are not always straightforward. Individuals can hold conflicting political perspectives.



▲ **SOURCE 2:** Who you are will have an impact on how you see an issue. How might the perspectives of these people differ on the question of whether Canada should go to war?

### Who I Am

### Where I Am

#### PERSONAL BELIEFS AND VALUES

"It is wrong to permanently destroy the environment to create economic prosperity and jobs."

BUT

"I believe that everyone should have a job and that economic prosperity is the key to full employment."

#### COMMUNITIES OF PLACE

"Economic prosperity and jobs in my community rely on natural resource industries that can damage the environment."

BUT

"My family enjoys vacationing in Canada's wilderness regions, some of which are threatened by economic activity."

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION VS. ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

#### POLITICAL IDEOLOGY

"I believe it is an important role of government to protect Canada's environment from excessive economic exploitation."

BUT

"I believe that individuals and businesses should be free from excessive government regulations."

#### COMMUNITIES OF INTERESTS

"I support helping people in other countries develop their natural resources for economic prosperity."

BUT

"I support environmental groups that protect endangered species from destruction caused by human economic activity."

▲ **SOURCE 3:** Deciding when and how to support economic prosperity or environmental protection would depend on the evidence and circumstances of each case. Is it possible that a person or group could hold many or even all of the different ideas in this table?

**Q1** What are the consequences of not considering the perspectives of others?

**Q2** How might the political perspective of someone who felt included, important, and advantaged differ from someone who felt excluded, unimportant, and disadvantaged?

**Q3** How do you react when others ignore or reject your perspective or beliefs?