

TEACHING TOLERANCE



A PROJECT OF THE SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
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MIDDLE & UPPER GRADES ACTIVITY

K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

SERVICE LEARNING

Valuing Differences

Discovering Your FRAME

All the things that make up who we are and how we view situations can be referred to as our FRAME. Our FRAME is made up of values we hold, our culture and background, and our life experiences. Life experiences include things that we choose to do, as well as things we do not have any choice about or control over.

Things that make up our frame include:

History/ancestral heritage	Gender
Neighborhood we grew up in	Language
Family	Education
Neighborhood we live in now	Sexual orientation
Religion	Profession
Physical abilities	Ethnicity
Age	Culture/cultural traditions
Values	Economic class
	Nation/region

F – Figure out the facts. Not just what is apparent to you, but all the facts. Seek more information, ask questions and listen.

R – Reflect on reality. Is it my reality or their reality? Am I looking at this through my FRAME or trying to see it through their FRAME?

A – Acknowledge and challenge assumptions. Think about your expectations and whether they are appropriate. Are you making assumptions based on your FRAME?

M – Maintain an open mind. Just because someone else's FRAME differs from yours doesn't make them wrong. What can you learn from them? What can they learn from you? What do you have in common?

E – Expand your experiences. Explore, expose yourself, and encounter differences; expand your comfort zone; increase your cultural competence.