

**Overview:**

Our circumstances, belief systems, financial means, identity, family experiences, etc. shape our perspectives. When we predominantly associate with others who have similar experiences, circumstances, and beliefs, that can be isolating, painting our perspectives as if we live in a bubble.

**Learning Outcomes:**

- Knowledge: greater awareness of different points of view.
- Skills: ability to listen; ability to express one's own views.
- Attitudes: willingness to consider the validity of other perspectives, and to modify one's own views.

**Information for Instructor:**

PBS Quiz: "Do You Live in a Bubble?" <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/economy/do-you-live-in-a-bubble-a-quiz-2>

**Instructions:**

Example question prompts to encourage student reflection on this topic:

- 1) Have you ever had a positive conversation with someone with a strikingly different background and world view than your own?
- 2) What did you learn from that experience?
- 3) If you have not had such an experience, reflect on how that might impact your own views.

**Applications:**

- History – set up discussion of the U.S. as a melting pot or a tossed salad; assimilation of immigrants throughout history; fear and demonizing of other throughout history
- Geography – discussion of US regionalism or urban vs rural, international shared borders, and geographically isolated areas
- Economics – use with reading from selected book like Nickle and Dimed or \$2 a Day or Working Poor; combine with historical lessons like the depression or industrial revolution, or use with discussion of different economic systems
- Government – use with discussions on political parties, regional politics, state vs. federal policy, protection of minority rights, or track II diplomacy

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