

OPV: Other People's Views

OPV is looking at other people's viewpoints consciously and deliberately.

In the preceding lessons the enlargement of the situation - the broadening of perception - has always been from the point of view of the thinker. But many thinking situations involve other people as well. The point of view of these other people is also an essential part of the enlargement of the situation. So another person may have different objectives, different priorities, different alternatives. In fact, when another person does a PMI, CAF, C&S, AGO, FIP, or APC he or she may come up with other ideas because he or she is in a different position.

Being able to look at and understand another person's point of view may be a very important part indeed of the thinking process, and so a deliberate effort may have to be made to see another point of view. This deliberate effort is the OPV. It may apply to another person's point of view or to other people's points of view in general.

OPV as a tool can be applied in different subject areas. It may be applied by itself or in conjunction with another operation. "Do an OPV-AGO for the other person." Once students can escape from their own points of view they can take other people into consideration. They may even come up with useful new ways of looking at a situation.

The OPV is an antidote to selfishness. Instead of a general vague feeling that other people's points of view matter there is a deliberate attempt to see another person's point of view.

In teaching the emphasis must be on how the view of another person in the same situation may be entirely different. It is the possible difference between points of view that matters here. If it is assumed that any sensible person would have the same point of view in a given situation then no effort at all will be made to see other points of view.



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Many thinking situations involve other people. What they think is just as much part of the situation as the factors, the consequences, the objectives. These other people may have a very different viewpoint. Although they are in the same situation, they may look at things very differently. It is a very important part of thinking to be able to be able to tell how other people are thinking and trying to see it from another person's point of view.