

SS.7.C.2.13 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will use scenarios to understand the reaction or perspective of different groups.

Below are some scenarios that show the possible reactions or **perspectives** of different groups:

- a. A local army base is closing and the **city council** has not decided how to use the land that will become available. City residents representing different **interest groups** hand out flyers to people attending the city council meeting. They express multiple perspectives on the best use of the land.
- b. The **Democratic** and **Republican** parties both address health care issues in their **party's platform**.
- c. Two interest groups place advertisements in a local newspaper taking opposing sides on whether the Florida Constitution should be **amended** to change the size of the **state Supreme Court**.

Questions that focus on multiple perspectives may ask students to identify a common perspective among two or more perspectives. Finding similarities and differences among the perspectives is the best strategy for identifying the correct response.

The focus of the benchmark is “public and current” issues. Historical issues, such as the multiple perspectives expressed by the **Federalists** and **Anti-Federalists** over the **ratification** of the U.S. Constitution, will not be part of multiple perspectives questions because the Federalist/Anti-Federalist debate was “public” but is not “current”. On the other hand, a family discussing how to use their **First Amendment** right to the “**free exercise of religion**” by choosing where to worship asks students to consider multiple perspectives on a “current” issue, but not a “public” issue.

Multiple perspectives should not be confused with evaluation. Questions evaluating points of view will not be asked.

amend - to change

Anti-Federalists - a group of people in the early United States who opposed ratification of the U.S. Constitution because they feared a strong national government and a lack of protection for individual rights

city council - the governing body of a city

Democratic Party - a political party that believes that the federal government should take a more active role in people's lives, particularly those who are in need

Federalists - a group of people in the early United States who favored the establishment of a strong national government and who worked for ratification of the U.S. Constitution

First Amendment - an amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting Congress from establishing a religion, and from interfering with freedom of religious exercise, press, speech, assembly, or petition

Florida Supreme Court - the highest court in Florida

free exercise of religion - the right for citizens to practice the religion of their choice without government involvement; guaranteed in the First Amendment

interest group - a group of people who are concerned with a particular issue and who try to influence legislators to act in their favor, also known as a special interest group

party platform - a written statement of the goals of a political party

perspective - point of view

ratification - the process of formally approving something

Republican Party - a political party that believes that the federal government should play a less active role in people's lives and that individuals can take care of themselves without government help