

Point of View Activities

1. Pronoun Sort Relay Race

Concept: A high-energy game that physically reinforces the key pronouns for each point of view.

How to Play:

1. **Prep:** Create two large posters: one with "FIRST PERSON (I, Me, My, We, Us, Our)" and another with "THIRD PERSON (He, She, They, It, His, Her, Their, Names)."
2. Write various pronouns and names (I, she, we, Max, they, my, his, our, Sarah, us) on index cards or sticky notes.
3. Divide the class into two teams. Line them up.
4. Place the pronoun/name cards in a pile at the starting line. Place the two posters on the wall at the finish line.
5. One at a time, a player from each team grabs a card, runs to the posters, and sticks it under the correct point of view. They then run back and tag the next teammate.

2. "Who's Telling the Story?" Book Sort

Concept: A hands-on activity that connects the lesson directly to the books they love.

How to Play:

1. Gather a stack of picture books and early chapter books from your classroom library. Choose some that are clearly first-person (e.g., *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*) and some that are third-person (e.g., most fairy tales, *Juniper Jupiter*).
2. In small groups, give each group 3-4 books.
3. Their task is to be "Point of View Detectives." They must read the first page (or a selected page) and decide who is narrating.
4. They can sort the books into two piles: First-Person Pile and Third-Person Pile.
5. Have groups share their findings. Ask: "What clue words did you find that helped you decide?"

3. Rewrite It!

Concept: This activity shows students how a story changes when the point of view changes.

How to Play:

1. Provide students with a short, simple paragraph written in the third person.

Example:

Third-Person: Sarah was so excited for the field trip. She packed her lunch and her favorite notebook. She could not wait to see the dinosaurs at the museum.

2. Challenge students to "rewrite" the paragraph from Sarah's own perspective, using first-person pronouns.

Example:

First-Person: I am so excited for the field trip! I packed my lunch and my favorite notebook. I cannot wait to see the dinosaurs at the museum.

3. You can also reverse it: start with a first-person paragraph and have them rewrite it in the third person.

4. Point of View Puppet Show

Concept: Students act out the same event from different perspectives, making the concept tangible.

How to Play:

1. Choose a simple, familiar event like "The Lunchroom Spill" or "The Soccer Game Goal."
2. Divide students into small groups.
3. **First Act:** Groups must write and perform a short puppet show (using simple stick puppets or just themselves) narrating the event in the third person.
 - Narrator: "He kicked the ball. It went into the net. She cheered for her team."
4. **Second Act:** Now, the same group must perform the event again, but this time, the characters themselves tell the story in the first person.
 - Soccer Player: "I kicked the ball! I saw it go right into the net!"
 - Teammate: "I cheered for my team because I was so happy!"

5. "I See" vs. "They See" Drawing Activity

Concept: A visual art activity that perfectly illustrates the difference between internal (first-person) and external (third-person) perspectives.

How to Play:

1. Give each student a piece of paper folded in half.
2. On the left side, have them draw a simple picture of themselves doing something fun (eating ice cream, reading a book, playing video games). Label this side "First Person."
3. Instruct them: "On this side, draw what you SEE from your own eyes. You might see your hands holding the ice cream cone, but not your own face."
4. On the right side, label it "Third Person." For the same activity, they must draw themselves from the outside, as if someone else is watching them. "Now, draw the whole scene, including your entire body and your facial expression."

6. Point of View Scavenger Hunt

Concept: Turn students into detectives who have to find examples of point of view "in the wild."

How to Play:

1. Create a worksheet with two columns: First-Person Clues and Third-Person Clues.
2. Send students on a hunt through their own independent reading books, a magazine article, or a textbook chapter.
3. Their mission is to find and copy down 2-3 sentences that are examples of each point of view.
4. For an extra challenge, ask them to find one sentence and explain how they know what point of view it is.

Simple Definitions to Use with Students:

First Person Point of View: The narrator is **IN** the story. They use words like I, me, my, we, and our. It feels like the character is talking directly to you. Look for them in the narration, not the dialogue.

Example: I went to the store to buy my favorite candy.

Third Person Point of View: The narrator is **OUTSIDE** the story, like a reporter. They use words like he, she, they, him, her, and character names.

Example: Lily went to the store to buy her favorite candy.