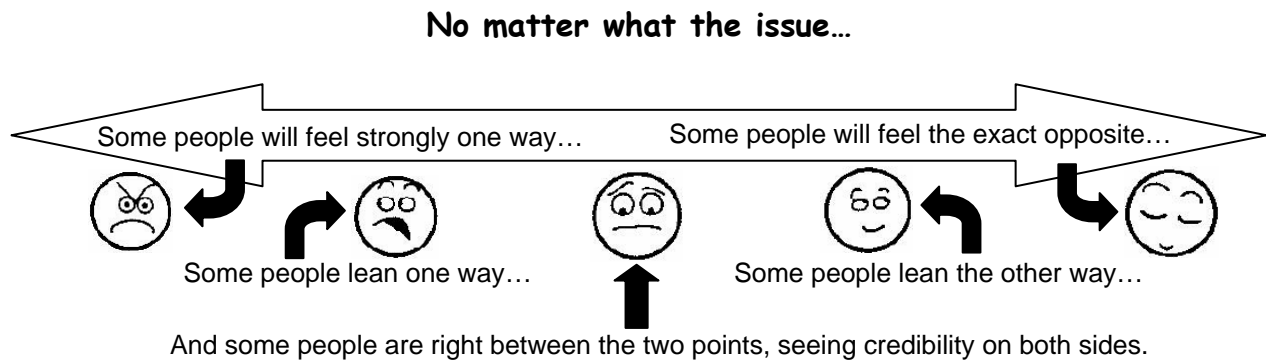


## Responding to Comparison/Contrast through Writing: Five-Voice Story Board: Focus on Perspectives

**Two-sentence summary:** After studying a topic on which people tend to have differing opinions, students create five dialogue bubbles that would represent five different viewpoints: one in complete support of the topic, one completely opposed, one sort of in support, one sort of opposed, and one that is moderate or a fence-sitter. Students then create a story board (or comic strip) that allows all five voices to be heard in it.

**Background knowledge needed:** The world has many shades of gray, and our students often think about important issues as though they only have black and white extremes. Share the pictorial continuum below with your students to introduce this writing assignment:




This story-board activity is an exercise in understanding others' perspectives by comparing and contrasting many points-of-view.

**Comparing/Contrasting:** Unlike the previous pages' three-voice story board, this writing assignment focuses on logical perspectives, not emotions. Students are weighing positives and negatives about topics, and then they are creating arguments that others might have. It is important to use this assignment with topics that people have opinions about.

**Differentiating Instruction Ideas:** Here's a support idea: divide your class into five groups, then assign each group to brainstorm a different perspective from the five. Have each group brainstorm four or five arguments and put them in the form of sentences. Each group can elect an *actor* to come to the front of the room. Line your performers up in the proper order and have each actor read his/her group's arguments. Have the class listen carefully to the performance. Should you assign this as an individual task after the whole class performance, your students who might have struggled will have a much easier time thinking up ideas for the five perspectives.

**A thought on the writing task:** Like the three-voice story-board, have students write rough drafts of their five frames on another piece of paper. When they have shared with other students and listened for ways to make their own ideas even stronger with revised ideas, allow them to use the blank story frame worksheet (next page) to complete the assignment.

# Five-voice story board, worksheet & example

Title:			
			<p>Give voice to five variations of these faces in your story board.</p>

<p>Title:</p> <h2>My Mini Civil War Debate</h2> 	<p>The Civil War was obviously a terrible event for the U.S., but positive things came from the war too.</p> 	<p>It was mostly bad though, Dude. When almost 700,000 people die, it's hard to come back with a positive.</p> 	
<p>But the war brought a complete end to something that needed to end: slavery. I am thankful for the Civil War.</p> 	<p>The war was kinda positive in that it made the U.S. rethink its economical future.</p> 	<p>No, no, no! War...bad! Brother killing brother...bad! Don't try to convince me of your shady ideas.</p> 	<p>Give voice to five variations of these faces in your story board.</p>