

Unit 1.1: Images and magazine covers

Worksheet

Perspectives

The idea of ‘perspective’ suggests that there is no single correct way of seeing or reading. In fact, the IB, in its mission statement, makes the claim that ‘other people, with their differences, may also be right’.

As a class, debate this claim. To what extent do you agree with it? Is it also possible that ‘other people, with their differences, may also be wrong’?

Now, reconsider the *Newsweek* magazine cover, ‘How do you solve a problem like Sarah Palin?’

Assume one of the following roles allocated by your teacher:

- the editor of *Newsweek* magazine
- a Republican Party politician, and supporter of Sarah Palin
- a Democratic Party politician, and opponent of Sarah Palin
- a linguist with an interest in contemporary media texts
- Sarah Palin’s daughter
- a historian, reading this text in the year 2050.

Respond to the following prompt: What does this text mean?

Following your role-play, discuss the following questions, in pairs and then as a whole class:

- What differences in perspective did you hear?
- How can you explain these differences in perspective?
- Think about the variety of perspectives you’ve heard. What does this suggest about texts and meaning?