

Key Concept: Perspective

The key concept of “Perspective” has an obvious link with TOK, as IB’s assessment rubrics in both the TOK presentation and essay require students to include “investigation of different perspectives”.

For example, in May 2019 TOK essay titles, Question 6 is:
“One way to assure the health of a discipline is to nurture contrasting perspectives.” Discuss this claim.

Interestingly, this requirement brings us back to the nature of literature, and the rationale of the English A syllabi. The first conceptual question that IB’s Language A Guide asks under “Perspective” is “Why and how do we study literature”? (Language A: Literature Guide, 2019; Language A: Language and Literature Guide, 2019).

Indeed. Why? And How?

Literature, being a discipline within the Area of Knowledge of the Arts, is an arena that facilitates knowers’ exploration of how literary and non-literary texts offer multiple perspectives on a single cultural or global issue.

Therefore, in your assessments, you should focus on analyzing what ways authors use to construct and deconstruct meaning, as well as what ways do you as readers utilize to negotiate and interpret meaning.

Ultimately, you should reflect on:

To what extent does the representation of a text depend on one’s perspective?
How does an author’s perspective offer insights and challenges?

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