

Name: _____

Date: _____
TF: _____**CONCEPT EXERCISE #1: PARTISAN PERCEPTIONS***

Partisan Perceptions are thoughts, feelings, and ideas felt by the participants in a conflict. These perceptions often involve differing perceptions of what the "truth" is in a given situation. When studying a conflict, it is often useful to make a rigorous effort to understand the partisan perceptions of both sides, so that one may further understand the participants' feelings. An empathetic understanding is an important first step in clarifying your own thoughts about a conflict.

As you read the following dialogue, look for the perceptions of each party.

Wilma: Now that I'm working full time, you've got to help with the housework. At least you could wash the dishes and do some of the vacuuming.

Fred: Those things are a wife's job. I do my share of the work around here. Who does all the gardening? Who takes out the garbage? Who made the dining room table?

Wilma: Gardening takes you two hours each week and it only takes a minute to take out the garbage. If you think we work equally, I'll do your jobs and you can do mine.

Fred: You always tell our friends you enjoy cooking.

Wilma: Not every day; besides, cooking is a necessity. Anyway, the point is that I work just as long hours as you do, so we should share the housework equally. I'll tell you what: I'll divide the chores into two groups and you can choose to do either group. That has to be fair.

Fred: No, it's not. Some of the stuff you do is a waste of time. It isn't necessary to vacuum twice a week. Let the house get a little messy. Let's get rid of your cats, too. Then you won't have to clean up after them all the time.

Wilma: Leave the cats out of this. I take care of them.

Fred: Look, I didn't make you go to work. If you can't do the housework and hold down a job, quit the job. I make twice as much as you do. My salary is plenty for both of us. After a hard day at the office I don't have any strength left to do housework. Besides, according to most polls I've read, I already do more housework than most husbands.

Wilma: If that's the way you feel, I'll live on my salary and you live on yours. We can also each prepare our own meals and wash our own clothes. I'm not doing any more work for you until you agree to share the load.

Questions on Partisan Perceptions

1. List three of Wilma's perceptions that Fred might want to change.

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____

2. Name one of Fred's perceptions that Wilma might not want to change.

3. List empathetically three strong points Wilma makes.

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____

4. Sometimes differing perceptions make it easier to resolve a conflict. Give an example of differing perceptions based on the Fred/Wilma case. Explain.

5. Wilma's proposal to divide housework and expenses equally is not workable. Why, then, might she have made it?

Applying the concept to the case: Questions on Partisan Perceptions on the West Bank:

6. Name three strong points that the Palestinians make:

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____

7. Name three strong points that the Israelis make:

- (a) _____

(b) _____

(c) _____

8. List two reasons why it is useful to understand the Partisan Perceptions of the other side:

(a) _____

(b) _____

9. What might be some limitations of this concept? When might you not want to use it?
