

# WHAT WENT WRONG?

Documenting Your Positive Corrective Efforts With Elementary Students



Student's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Intervention: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Adult Conducting Interview: \_\_\_\_\_

## Step Six:

### Exploring Perspectives

**Intent:** To assist the student in viewing the situation from a larger perspective or context.

**Goal:** To get the student to see the problem from the viewpoint of others and thus build the quality of empathy.

“  (Student’s name) , you’ve done a good job of explaining things from your point of view. I think I have a pretty good idea of what you did and why you did it. Now I’m going to ask you to use your imagination. Pretend you are  . How do you think he/she viewed the situation?” (Repeat this question, using the name of all other affected parties, including the teacher, and the class as a whole.)

**Student’s Responses:** (*What the student said about how others may have viewed the situation:*)

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**Other potentially useful statements:**

“I know this is the hard part, but use your imagination. If he/she were here, how would he/she describe it?”

**Please note:** This step is very difficult for many children, because it forces them to confront the reality that they may have made a mistake. They will likely attempt to avoid this step by shrugging their shoulders or saying, “I don’t know.” Try encouraging a response with, “I know you are smart. I’ll bet you could guess what   thought.”

You may end up role-playing the part of the other people involved. For example: “I wonder if   was thinking, ‘Why did  (student’s name)  hit me? I was only kidding!’” or, “I wonder if Mr./Ms.   was thinking, ‘I worked so hard on this lesson, but now everyone is paying attention to  (student’s name)  instead.’”

You may also have to be the voice of the system’s needs, i.e. “If we allow students to hit each other here, everybody will be doing it.” This step is crucial in the method. The facilitator must be imaginative to help give the student a true picture of all the ways his/her behavior affected others.

