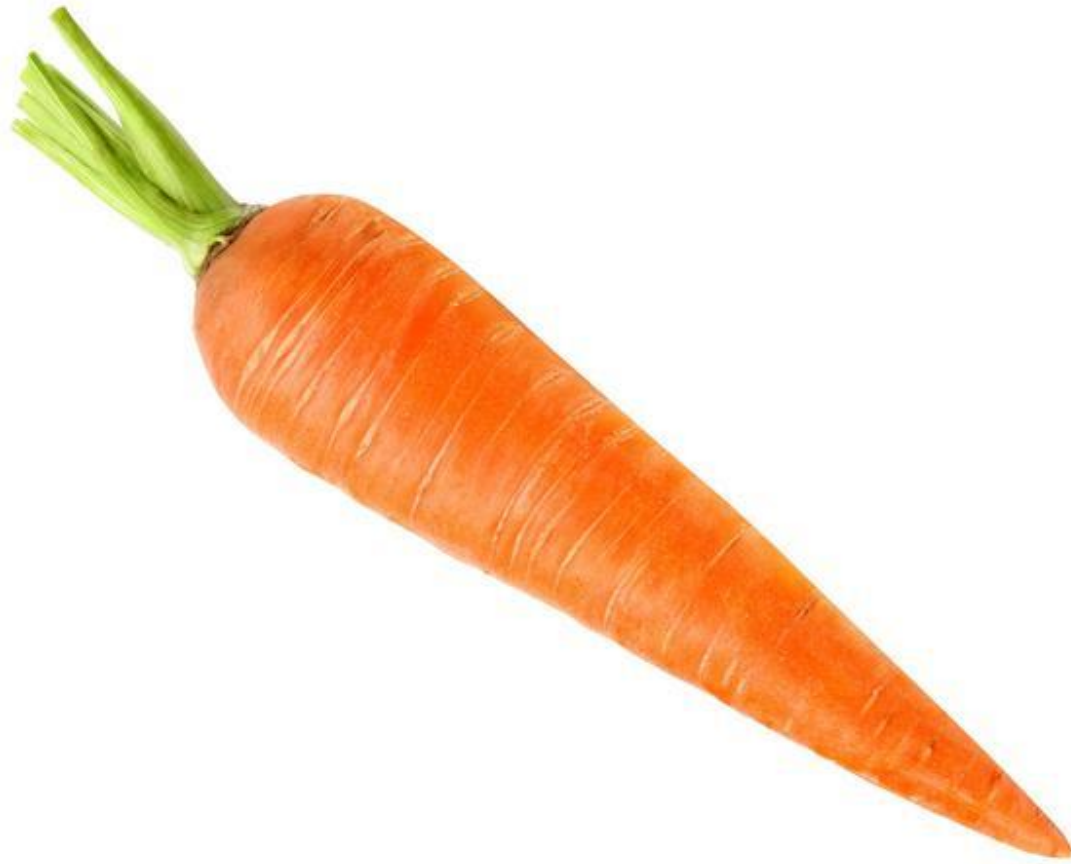
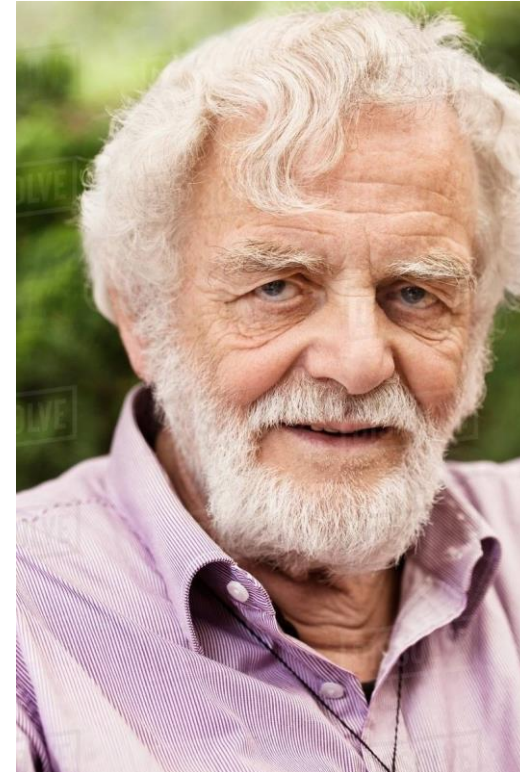
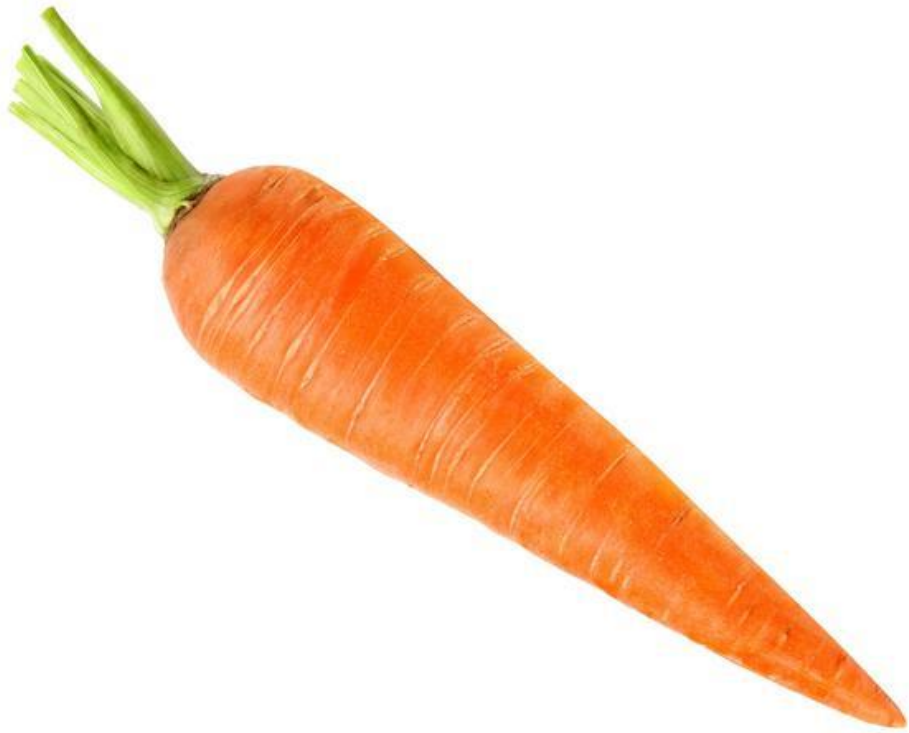


What a carrot can teach us about viewpoints



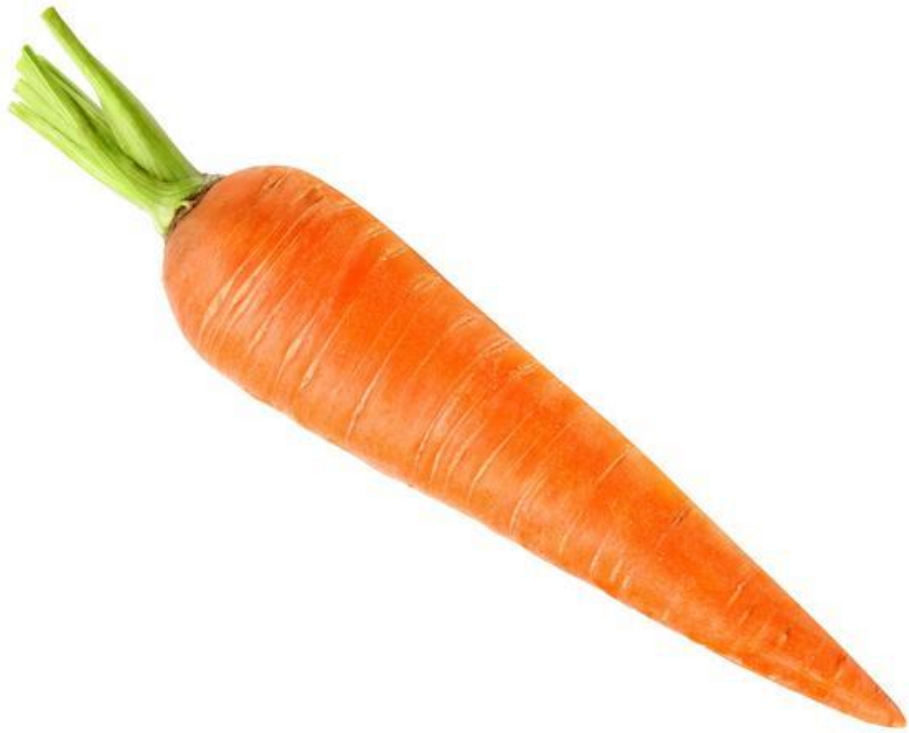
How would you describe a carrot?

A thick and round orange thing.

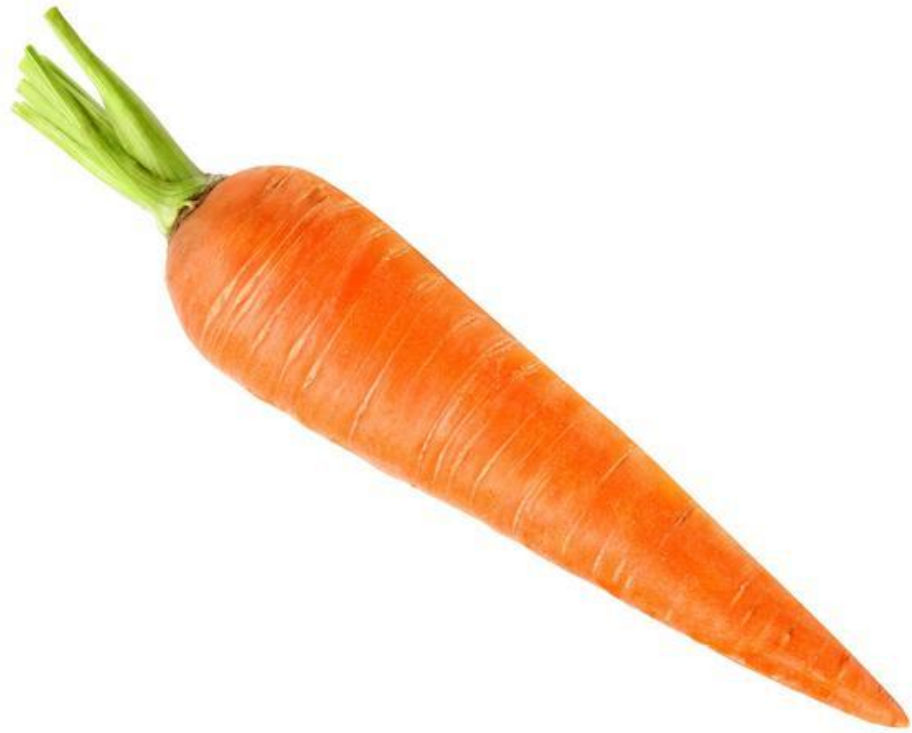


How would you describe a carrot?

Green and orange, skinny and pointy.



How would you describe a carrot?

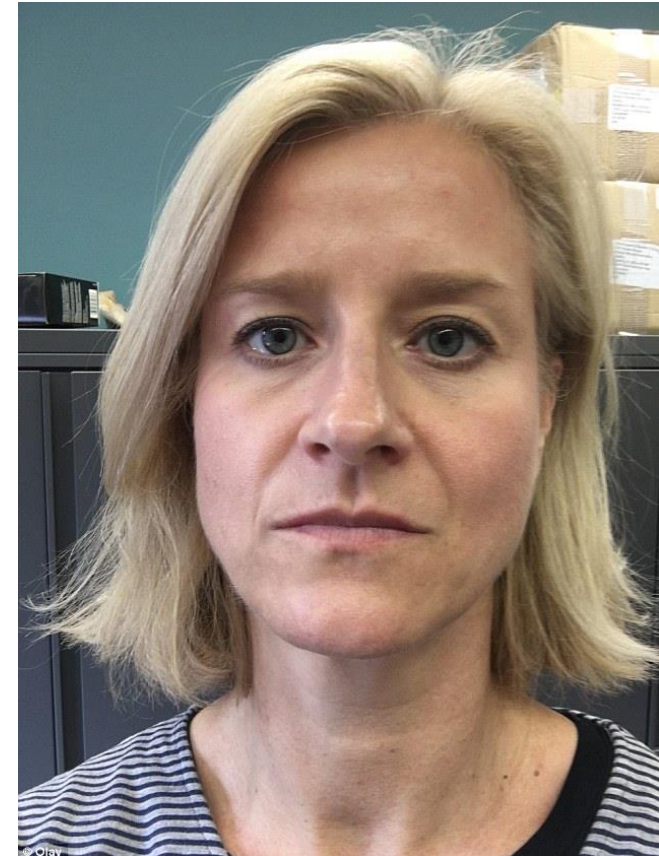
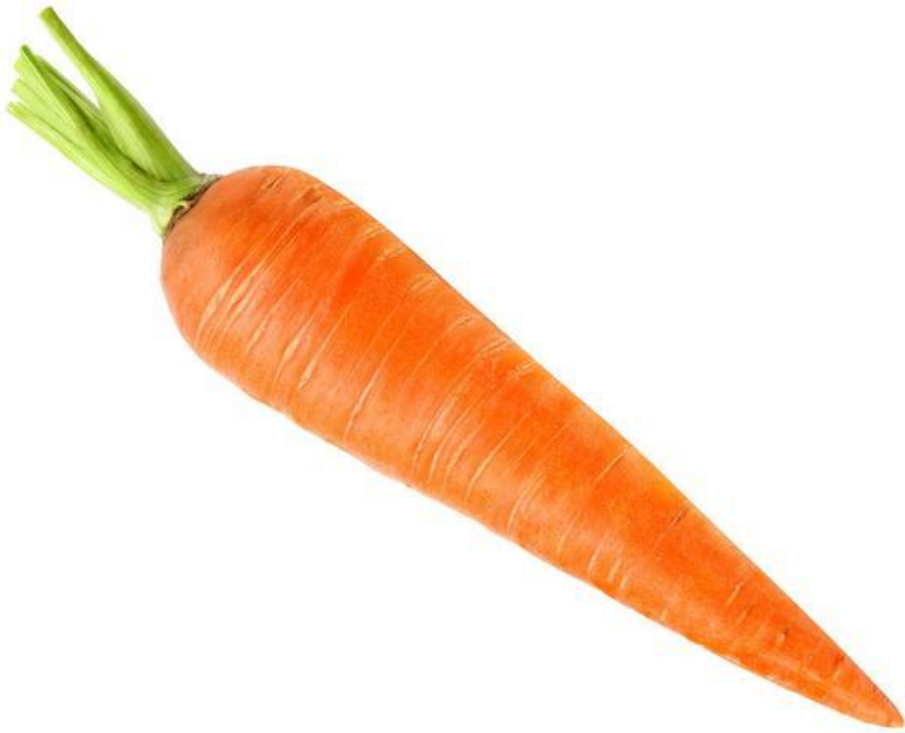


It looks like an orange icicle.

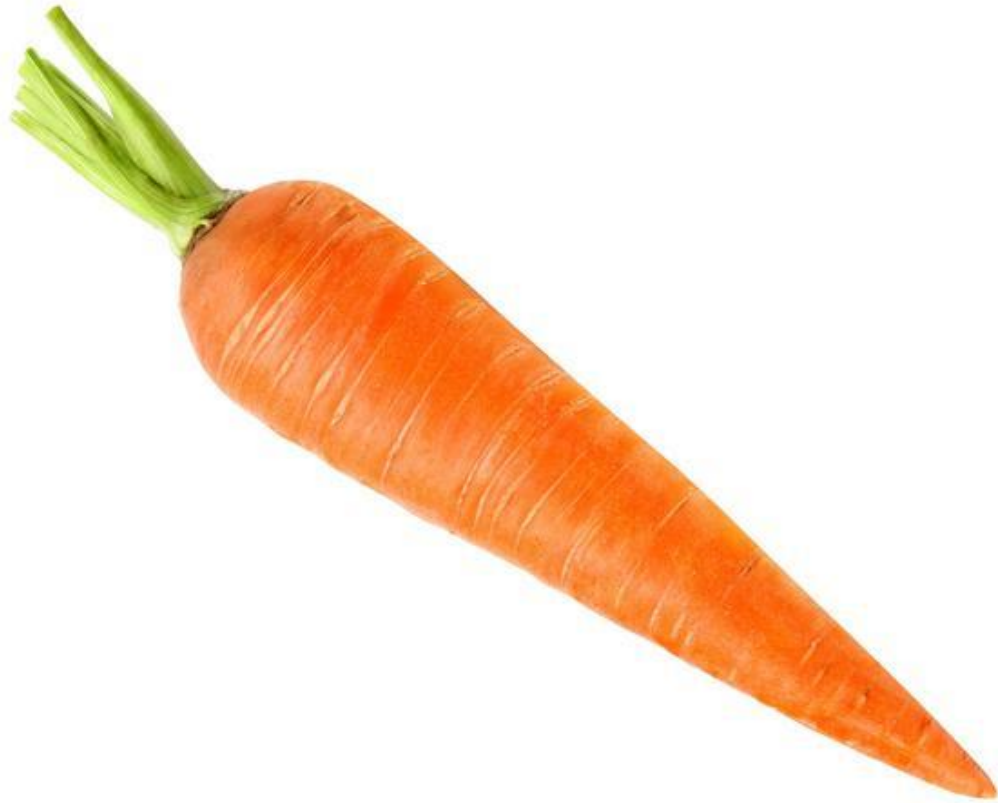


How would you describe a carrot?

It looks like an orange dagger.

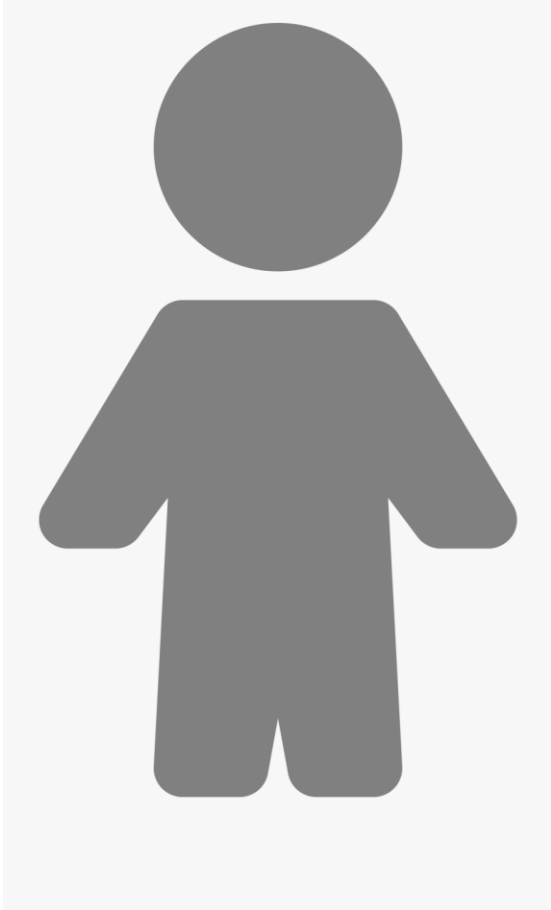


Were they all looking at the same thing?



- Yes, they were, but they were seeing it differently.
- This is called point of view, or viewpoint, or perspective.
- A point of view comes from within a person, so there can be many viewpoints on the same thing.
- Our point of view affects our interpretations of the world around us.

Contributing factors



- Sex
- Race
- Age
- Education
- Economic status
- Economic self-interest
- Beliefs
- Life experiences

Example of how just one factor affects viewpoint:



There's no such thing as junk mail!



This is economic self-interest at work

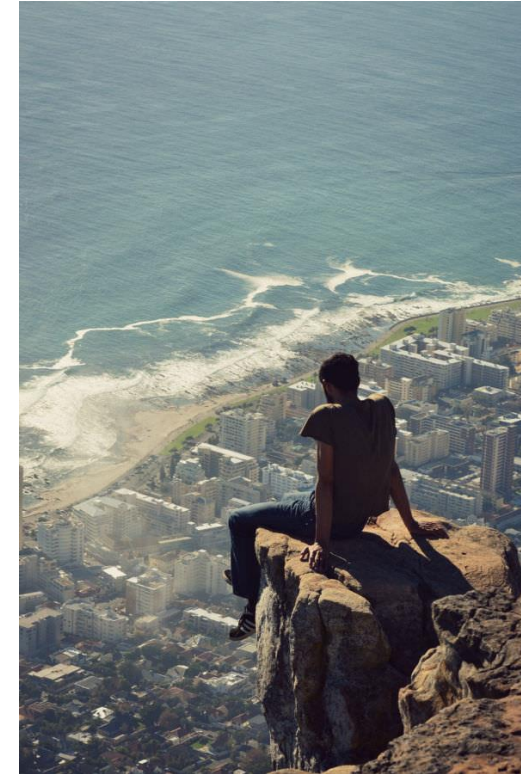
- Most people regard junk mail as a nuisance
- The letter carrier, on the other hand, knows that mail volume means job security

Viewpoints can be very different depending on

Where you are now



And where you came from



Different viewpoints create differing interpretations



- This statue was created to honor the native inhabitants of La Crosse and is a revered landmark.
- This statue perpetuates harmful stereotypes and should be removed.

(Note: This statue was removed from Riverside Park in La Crosse WI.)

How do we decide what to do?



Extreme partisanship comes from

Not being open to other viewpoints



**Viewing situations as a “zero-sum”
where one side must dominate**



First steps

- Realize that there are points of view other than our own
- Understand why points of view can be different
- Appreciate the validity of other viewpoints
- Accept that other viewpoints can be as good as your own
- Search for good ideas from multiple sources
- Work toward compromise

Start with a balanced diet of news sources



Resources for looking at both sides

- [AllSides.com](https://www.allsides.com)
- Created by people of various political persuasions
- Curates news sources from the left, center, and right
- [ProCon.org](https://www.procon.org)
- Nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization
- Presents the pro and con of current issues

If all of us were the same, some of us would be unnecessary.

(Paul Heckman, UW-La Crosse English professor)



Jeff Rand

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La Crosse Public Library

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