Matthew Lennon

Activity: The Right Path

*Grades*:  6-8

*Time Requirement:*One 50-60 minute class

*Objectives*:

-Students will be able to explain multiple perspectives by writing a short definition citing the activity.

-Students will be able to explain that sometimes there are multiple right ways to do something by coming

 up with their own examples of multiple ways to do one thing.

*Preparation:* Cut four sets of tape totaling 30 feet in length each set.  Lay each set down on the floor

creating a different path from the others from the back of the room to the front of the room.  All paths
must have the same number of turns and total 30 feet in length.  Color code each set red, blue, yellow,
and green.

*Synopsis*:  As students enter room, assign each student to a color and have them sit with that color.
The groups will have 5 minutes to traverse their path, time it, and get to know it well.  Teacher
explains that in about a half hour, they are going to vote for the best path from the back of the room
 to the front, with no running.  Then the groups will have 8 minutes to create a 30 second spiel on
why their path is the best.  Along the way, teacher is encouraging competition and riling things up.
  Each group will then present their justification, with an additional minute for questions or clarifications.
Teacher will then pass out a sheet of paper to each student.

Now, instead of voting, the teacher will silence the class and explain how each path is exactly the same
length of tape.  Each has the same number of turns.  Each path gets from the back of the class to the
 front of the class in almost identical times.  Then the teacher leads a discussion on why there was so
 much competition and why one path had to be right.  Finally, teacher asks why the students bought
into the competition and that their path was right without traveling the other groups’ paths, leading into
 a discussion on multiple perspectives.

*Assessment*:  After the discussion, students will write two short paragraphs on their sheets of paper.

First paragraph will explain their understanding of multiple perspectives.  Students must cite three
 examples or points points from the activity and discussion.

Second paragraph will be explaining a specific situation where there are multiple “right” ways of doing
 something…eg. Painting a picture from different angles with different paints, playing a song on
 different instruments, what is a perfect birthday me