**Video Title:** Jane Elliott Brown Eyes vs Blue Eyes

**Video URL:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1CtrpLh6TKk>

**Run Time:** 9:27

**Source:** Heroic Imagination Project/YouTube

**Closed Caption Available:** Yes

This video shows Jane Elliott's famous brown-eyed, blue-eyed demonstration. After Martin Luther King was assassinated, Jane Elliott wanted to teach her third-grade class a lesson about prejudice and discrimination. In class one day Elliott told her class that brown-eyed people were inferior to blue-eyed people. Her brown-eyed students wore armbands so they could be identified easily as brown-eyed children. The next day, Elliott reversed the situation (brown-eyed people are superior to blue-eyed people). Elliott taught her students a powerful lesson about the impact of discrimination. This video applies equally well to Chapters 3 and 4. However, I like to use it to show how changing the rules and parameters in a social situation can have a profound impact on how individuals within that situation behave. Elliott was able to take a class of children who were all friends and turn them against one another based on a relatively minor change in the parameters governing the classroom. As you watch the video, you should answer the following questions:

1. How did Jane Elliott teach her class about prejudice and discrimination?

2. How did Jane Elliott create a status difference between the blue-eyed and brown-eyed children?

3. How did the children react to the exercise?

4. What were Mrs. Elliot’s students’ feelings about the exercise years later?

5. Why do people continue to use perceptual cues (e.g., gender, skin color, etc.) as a basis for behavior?

6. What can be done to counter the human predisposition to respond to norms in the social environment that relate to discrimination?