Multiple Viewpoints

Category: Group Activity/Writing Assignment
Series: Turning Points in US History (*12 Incredible Facts About the Boston Tea Party*)

Supplies
12 Incredible Facts About the Boston Tea Party, printed copies of each of the historic accounts from the "Perspectives" web resource, the book's 12-Story Library webpage, paper, pencils

Prep
Read through *12 Incredible Facts About the Boston Tea Party* or assign your students to read it. Print enough copies of each of the historic accounts from the "Perspectives" web resource for each group of students to have two, one written by a participant and one by an observer or newspaper.

Directions
Split the students into groups of three or four. Give each group one account written by a Boston Tea Party participant and one account written for a newspaper or by an observer. Ask the students to read both accounts and answer the following questions:
- After reading both accounts, did one include details the other didn't? (e.g. the meetings that occurred before the Boston Tea Party or the way the participants were dressed)? If so, what details were left out of the other account? Do you think these details are important to the event?
- Did the two accounts contradict each other? Did events happen one way in the first account and another way in the second? If yes, why do you think that is?
- Was the tone of the two accounts different? Do you prefer one over the other? Whose version do you prefer? Why?
- Does the author of each text seem to support or oppose what happened? How do you know? Use examples from the text.
- Using information from both accounts, write your own version of what happened.

Evaluation
Give the students two points for answering the questions in each bullet point. RI 6.9

Purpose
To help students compare and contrast multiple accounts of the same event, noticing the differences in evidence and interpretation that the authors choose to present, as well as the effects of these choices on the readers.