



## American Expression E1244 Stance

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A stance refers to a specific posture, position, or viewpoint that an individual or entity adopts in response to a particular situation, issue, or subject matter. It is a way of expressing one's perspective or approach to various matters, and it can manifest in a wide range of contexts, from personal beliefs and physical postures to political ideologies and philosophical outlooks. Understanding the concept of stance is crucial for comprehending how individuals and groups engage with the world around them.

In physical terms, stance often relates to the way a person positions their body. For example, in martial arts or sports like boxing, a fighter assumes a particular stance, which dictates how they stand, distribute their weight, and position their feet, arms, and torso. These stances are carefully chosen to optimize balance, mobility, and defensive or offensive capabilities. In everyday life, our posture and body language also convey stances, reflecting emotions, confidence, or attentiveness.

On a more abstract level, stance pertains to how people approach complex issues or make decisions. In politics, individuals and parties adopt political stances that align with their beliefs and values. For instance, someone might take a liberal stance, advocating for progressive social policies and government intervention, while another person may adopt a conservative stance, emphasizing limited government involvement and traditional values. These stances guide their positions on various policies, from healthcare and education to taxation and immigration.

Stance also plays a crucial role in the realm of philosophy and ethics. Philosophers and ethicists often explore different moral stances or theories that provide frameworks for assessing right and wrong actions. For instance, utilitarianism takes a consequentialist stance, focusing on the greatest good for the greatest number, while deontology adopts a duty-based stance, emphasizing ethical obligations and principles.

In communication and rhetoric, individuals frequently adopt persuasive stances to influence opinions or behavior. Public speakers and debaters employ various rhetorical strategies to make their case effectively. They may adopt a persuasive stance by using logical arguments, emotional appeals, or ethical appeals to connect with their audience and sway opinions.

In literature and art, authors and creators often take artistic stances by conveying their perspectives and messages through their work. These stances can manifest in themes, symbolism, and narrative choices. For instance, a novel may adopt a feminist stance by exploring themes of gender equality and women's rights, while a painting might take a political stance by depicting social injustice or activism.

Furthermore, stance extends to how individuals engage with contemporary issues, from climate change and social justice to technological advancements and cultural trends. People may adopt a proactive stance by actively participating in movements, volunteering, or advocating for change. Conversely, some may take a passive or apathetic stance by not engaging with or avoiding involvement in these matters.

In conclusion, a stance encompasses the posture, viewpoint, or position that individuals or entities adopt in response to various situations, topics, or issues. It can be expressed physically, politically, philosophically, rhetorically, artistically, or ethically. Understanding the concept of stance provides insights into how individuals and groups navigate the complexities of the world and make choices that align with their values, beliefs, and goals.

## Questions for Discussion

1. How does one's cultural background and upbringing influence the political stances they adopt? Can you provide examples of how cultural factors shape political beliefs and ideologies?
  2. In the context of ethical decision-making, what are the key differences between utilitarianism and deontology as philosophical stances? How do these stances guide individuals when facing moral dilemmas?
  3. Can you share an example from literature or art where the creator's stance on a particular social or political issue is evident? How does the artistic stance influence the audience's interpretation of the work?
  4. How do persuasive stances in rhetoric and communication differ based on the target audience? What strategies can be employed to effectively convey a message to diverse groups with varying perspectives?
  5. In the face of pressing global challenges, such as climate change and inequality, how do individuals decide whether to take an active or passive stance? What motivates people to engage actively in addressing these issues, and what barriers may deter them from doing so?
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