Connective Thinking

There are five different strategies we can use to support students in connective thinking — making connections between things that may not at first seem like they connect. Let's get our brains thinking in connective ways.

Try **one or more** of the following connective thinking activities with a partner or independently:

- Use analogies
- Create cause-and-effect chains
- Categorize information
- Concept mapping
- Ask "What else?"

I. **Analogies:** There are four types of analogies represented. Choose a few of the analogies to complete and then identify the type or relationship.

Synonyms — car : automobile : : world : earth
Antonyms — happy : sad : : beautiful : ugly
Part/Whole — house : room : : book : chapter
Category — animal : horse : : plant : tomato

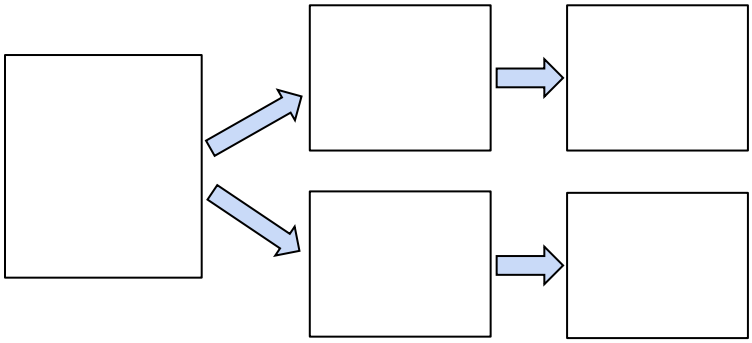
Complete the Analogy	**Relationship**
pick : select : : couch : _____ (window, ladder, sofa)	
center : middle : : sea : _____ (ocean, fish, land)	
neighborhood : city : : pupil : _____ (game, class, end)	
want : desire : : find : _____ (discover, remain, fall)	
top : bottom : : large : _____ (huge, small, many)	
flour : bread : : water : _____ (soup, salad, eat)	
hear : listen : : see : _____ (feel, watch, smell)	

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angry : calm : : clean : _____ (neat, lost, dirty)	
win : succeed : : push : _____ (shove, lose, find)	
soldier : army : : player : _____ (ball, field, team)	

II. Cause-and-Effect Chains: Sometimes an event, action, or feeling has multiple effects. Map out a decision that your students might make (or you might make in your role) by considering multiple effects of the decision. Document your cause-and-effect chain using the chart below or create one of your own.

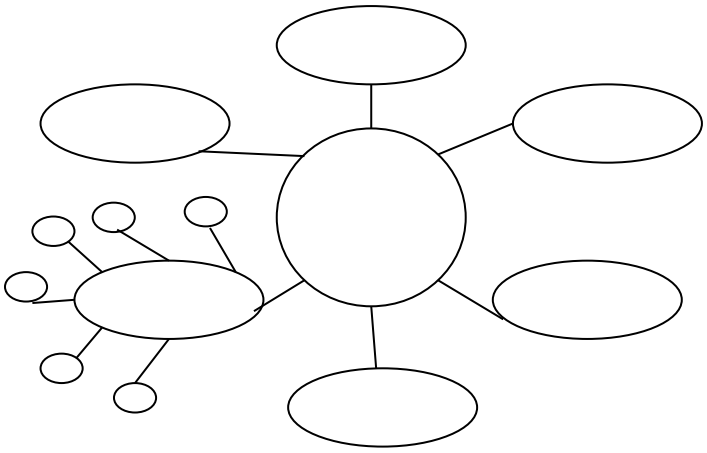


III. Categorizing: Think about your to-do list or some other list you have in mind and create three categories for it, sorting the list into each. Use the table below or create one of your own.

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IV. **Concept Mapping:** Here's a chance to let your mind wander! Choose any word and write it in the center circle. Then make at least six connections to that word, adding circles of the center if you have time for more. Then choose one of the initial connections and make six connections to that one.



V. **Ask "What Else?"** Asking "What else?" prompts the brain to engage in complex thinking and identify new possibilities as one considers past actions, successes and challenges, open items, and so much more.

Consider a challenge you faced recently. It can be something simple like keeping plants alive or something more complex like addressing a challenge in your classroom. Ask yourself, "What else?" and then let your mind go, making connections and identifying future possibilities.

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