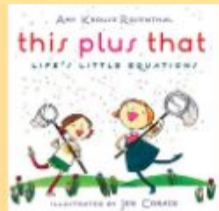


Critical and Creative Thinking for Families (Volume 12)

→ Directions: Look over these activities and choose one (or more) that seem interesting to you.

Encapsulation

We use **encapsulation** to help identify the essence of an idea. An encapsulation is brief and concise.



Let's get started:

- Reflect on time spent together over the past few weeks.
- Choose a moment that stands out.
- Choose one of the following ways to encapsulate the essence of this moment.
 - **Headline:** If you were to write a headline for this topic or issue right now that captured the most important aspect that should be remembered, what would that headline be?
 - **Tweet:** Use 280 characters or less to capture this moment. What would the hashtag be?
- How is your encapsulation similar or different from someone else's?

Making Connections

When we work to **make connections**, we explore the ways in which things might be related to one another.

- How is a blanket like an umbrella?
- How is riding a bike like playing soccer?
- How is a school field trip like going to the store?
- How is painting a picture like listening to music?
- How is making a new friend like baking cookies?

Look at the images below. What connections might you make between the three items?



- How could these things be related?
- Which is most important?
- Which is most like you?
- Which picture connects to a favorite memory you may have?

Habits of Mind - Gathering Data Through All of our Senses

Are you bothered by the cold? Can we do more than **feel temperature changes**?

Think about the cold. Then, brainstorm some answers to the following questions

- List 1: What can cold **LOOK** like?
- List 2: What **SOUNDS** can cold make?
- List 3: What can cold **SMELL** like?
- List 4: How does the cold **FEEL**?
- List 5: What **TASTES** cold?

Share what the word cold means to you. You can create a poem, a picture, a model, a song, or maybe even an idea for a movie!



Plus-Minus-Interesting

A New Year's **resolution** is a promise a person makes for the new year. Create a PMI chart about making a New Year's resolution.

Plus	Minus	Interesting

- What are some good things about them?
- What are some bad things about them?
- What makes them interesting?

If you don't love these option, consider using P-M-I to explore other ideas.

- 2020 - A Year in Review
- You are getting more exercise
- You set a new goal for yourself
- You decided to start studying more



Encapsulation

When we think of what it means to encapsulate something, we think about getting at the essence of an idea, object, or perhaps period of time. We need to think deeply and synthesize information in order to get heart of idea, object, or period of time.



Making Connections

When learners make connections, they explore relationships between new ideas, their daily lives, and the world around them. Making connections supports learners in their ability to create unique and original ideas.



Habits of Mind – Gathering Data Through All of Our Senses

When we gather data through our senses, we stop to notice what we hear, see, taste, smell, and touch. The more we observe, the more information we gather.



Plus-Minus-Interesting

Learners use the PMI structure to keep an open-minded attitude and consider an issue from multiple perspectives. Younger learners may consider what would make a certain idea interesting (i.e. What if books were round?), older learners may use the “I” to consider implications.



S.C.A.M.P.E.R.

S.C.A.M.P.E.R. is a model that helps us create unique thoughts, explore relationships, and search for new or different combinations. SCAMPER involves a variety techniques (**S**ubstitute – **C**ombine – **A**djust or **A**dapt – **M**odify – **P**ut to Other Uses – **E**liminate or **E**laborate – **R**everse or **R**earrange) that help to change and improve something by changing one or more parts of the original idea.

Remember, you can S.C.A.M.P.E.R. any of these activities on the first page. This might make them more interesting and enjoyable to work on.