



# A “COMMON LANGUAGE” FOR THE COMMON CORE

Thinking Maps give teachers an understanding of how to visually represent, or “Map,” the critical thinking embedded in the Common Core State Standards. The Maps provide students with both the scaffolds and structures to support a deeper level of understanding, which will empower them to become college and career ready.

## COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS & QUESTIONS

## THINKING PROCESS

## THINKING MAPS AS TOOLS

**Understand and use general (tier 2) and domain-specific (tier 3) academic vocabulary.**

What does \_\_\_\_\_ mean? Can you define \_\_\_\_\_?

**Brainstorming or  
Defining in Context**

**Circle Map**



**Use relevant descriptive details and sensory language in reading and writing.**

How would you describe \_\_\_\_\_?

What are the characteristics of \_\_\_\_\_?

**Describing**

**Bubble Map**



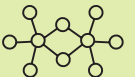
**Compare and contrast important points in two texts of points of view; draw comparative inferences about two populations.**

What are the differences between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?

How are \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ alike/different?

**Comparing and  
Contrasting**

**Double  
Bubble Map**



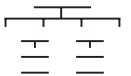
**Determine the main idea(s) of text(s) and key supporting details in complex texts.**

What is the main idea of \_\_\_\_\_?

What are the supporting details?

**Classifying**

**Tree Map**

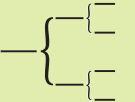


**Use common affixes to determine and clarify the meaning of unfamiliar terms.**

Analyze the structural parts of \_\_\_\_\_ to suggest improvements.

**Part-to-Whole**

**Brace Map**



**Understand the steps and patterns in complex processes in order to answer questions and solve problems.**

What ordered steps would you follow to solve \_\_\_\_\_?

How would you demonstrate the steps for solving \_\_\_\_\_?

**Sequencing**

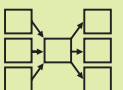
**Flow Map**



**Evaluate the argument and specific claims in a text; determine the impact the author's purpose and point of view have on a text. What is the impact of the author's point of view on \_\_\_\_\_? How would you demonstrate the steps for solving \_\_\_\_\_?**

**Cause and Effect**

**Multi-Flow  
Map**



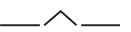
**Analyze the relationship between a primary and secondary source; analyze patterns and relationships.**

What is the relationship between \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_?

How would you analyze the relationship and analogies in \_\_\_\_\_?

**Seeing  
Relationships**

**Bridge Map**



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