Thinking Maps®: 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 Ma	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	\bigcirc	
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 or points of view; draw comparative inferences about two populations. What are the similarities and differences between 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 evaluate the argument and claims in?	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 relationships and analogies in?	Seeing Relationships	Bridge Map	_^_	



^{*}This is an example of connecting one standard to a Thinking Map. It is important to move beyond connecting a standard to a specific Map as teachers/students may choose a different Map or combination of Maps to master a standard.

Thinking Maps®: A "Common Language" for the Common Core

During the Thinking Maps Professional Development plan, once teachers have mastered the Maps, continuing professional development should be differentiated to address the specific goals within your school or district improvement plans. Thinking Maps are not another thing to be done, but rather a unique strategy to do the things that need to be done more effectively and efficiently. Some possible follow-up focuses are identified in the Tree Map below.

- Thinking Maps Professional Development is designed to increase teacher and leadership effectiveness. Built around a framework for implementation that helps teachers move from basic knowledge and use to executive control, Professional Development is designed to help:
 - Raise the level of discourse and collaborative problem-solving
 - Increase critical thinking
 - Develop skills for interdisciplinary reading, writing, speaking and listening
 - Support acquisition and use of academic vocabulary



Thinking Maps: A Language for Learning Differentiated Professional Development

Focusing on Critical Thinking

Asking The Right Questions: Map Clarification

Meta-Cognition: Framing Your Thinking

Going Beyond Graphic Organizers and Worksheets

Using Multiple Maps for Depth, Rigor and Complexity

Focusing on Literacy Links

Vocabulary Strategies (Tiers 2 and 3)

Gathering Key Details From Text Features

Unlocking Complex Cross Curricular Texts

Writing In All Content Areas

Literary Analysis

Focusing on Content Connections

Connecting the Common Core/ State Standards in all Content Areas to Thinking Maps

Math: Conceptual Understanding and Problem Solving

Disciplinary Literacy In Science and Social Studies

Focusing on Instructional Strategies

Differentiating Instruction (RTI)

Using Thinking Maps for Collaborative Planning

Increasing Student Engagement

Collaborative Planning, Research and Problem Solving

