

# Critical and Creative Thinking for Families

## (Volume 14)

→ 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.



- Reflect on the month of January.
  - Family time
  - Learning and school
  - Current events
  - Your thoughts, feelings, accomplishments, challenges
- Choose one of the following ways to encapsulate the essence of January.
  - **Headline:** If you were to write a headline that captured the most important aspect of January, what would that headline be?
  - **Tweet:** Use 280 characters or less to capture the essence of January. What would the hashtag be?
  - **Encapsulation Equation:** create a page(s) similar to the format used in the book This Plus That.

### Habits of Mind - Gathering Data Through All of our Senses

Are you looking for a little **hope**? At times, life can be tough or uncertain, and we need hope to carry us through. This activity will give you a chance to explore how we can use our senses to experience hope in a variety of ways.



Think about the idea of **hope**. Then, brainstorm some answers to the following questions

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

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

### Fluency, Flexibility, Originality, and Elaboration

**Fluency:** List all of the places, symbols, features, and/or information you might find on a map.

**Flexibility:** Not all maps are paper maps. What are some other types of maps that you know about?

**Originality:** Design a Scavenger Hunt, including a treasure map, to help someone locate a piece of treasure in your house or neighborhood.

**Elaboration:** Add clues that help the treasure hunter locate the treasure!



### See, Think, Wonder

Easter Island is an island located in the Pacific Ocean west of Chile. It is famous for its giant stone statues.



- What do you **see**?
- What do you **think** the purpose of this structure might be?
- What does this make you **wonder**?

To learn more about Easter Island by accessing the databases in MackinVIA. Use your login information in **MyAccess** and then select: **MackinVIA > Databases > Nat Geo Kids**



## 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.



## 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.

## Fluency, Flexibility, Originality, Elaboration (FFOE)

These thinking strategies and processes help students brainstorm, make connections, and develop creative ideas.

**Fluency** – The ability to generate numerous ideas or alternatives to solve a problem that requires a novel solution.

**Flexibility** – The ability to consider a number of different perspectives in an effort to generate a wide variety of ideas or alternatives.

**Originality** – The ability to generate novel, unique, and rare ideas or alternatives to solve a problem that requires an innovative solution.

**Elaboration** – The ability to generate a large number of details or descriptions that explain a specific and novel solution to a problem.

## See-Think-Wonder

**See-Think-Wonder** is a thinking routine that encourages students to make careful observations and thoughtful interpretations. It helps stimulate curiosity and sets the stage for inquiry. It relies on the questions:

- What do you see?
- What do you think is happening?
- What does it make you wonder?

## 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**ddjust 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.**