

# Thinking Maps: Tools for Learning

This week's  
focus:

The Bridge  
Map



Purpose:

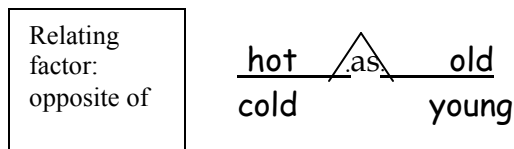
Seeing  
relationships;  
analogies

Key Words:

Identify  
common  
relationship  
guess the rule  
simile  
metaphor  
ratio

Thinking process:

Using a bridge map can help to show relationships between two ideas, topics, areas, etc. When using this map, you must identify the "relating factors" between the pairs that are being shared. In each pair, the top item relates to the bottom item in the same way, just as a traditional analogy would relate.



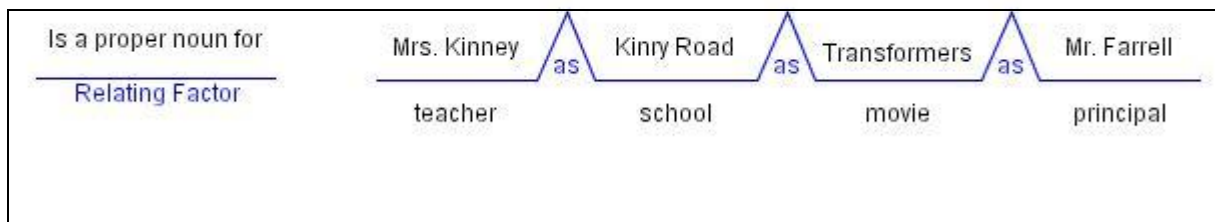
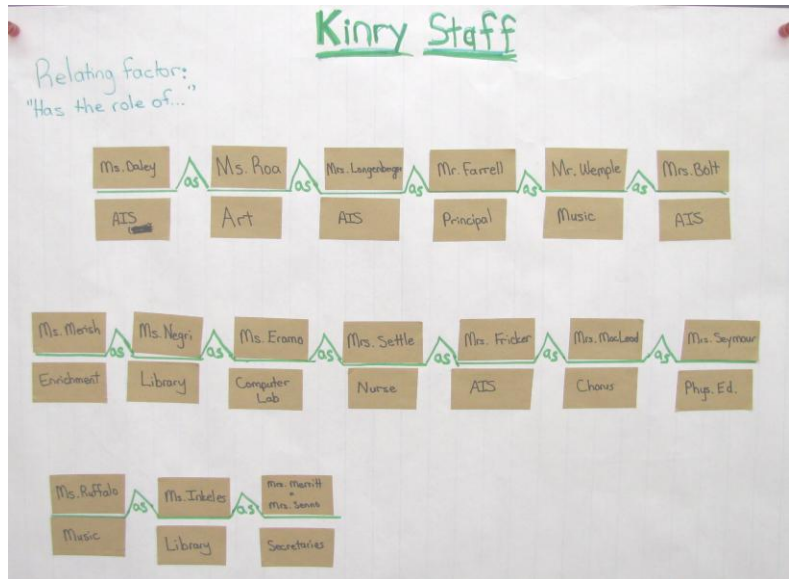
How to create this map:

1. Draw a line to the left side of your work space to write the "relating factor" or phrase that works to describe how the top part and bottom part of each pair.
2. Then move a little to the right and draw another line. Write one part of the pair above the line and then write the other part below the line (remember to keep the correct order based on the identified relationship).
3. Then create a bridge with the word "as" under the uprights.
4. Add another line after the bridge to write the second pair of words.
5. Continue for as many pairs as needed.

Turn over to see examples and suggestions.

Here are examples of bridge maps from classrooms.

Relating factor:  
"Has the role of..."



Sample questions you could ask at home:

- What is the role of each member in your family? (List people and "title.")
- What is the relationship between the members of your family and their "job"?
- How would you rate the response to different dinnertime meals?
- What is the most prominent characteristic of each member in your family?

Select one of the questions to the left or come up with your own idea of how your child or your family could use this bridge map.