

# Critical and Creative Thinking for Families (Volume 16)

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

## Visible Thinking Routine Project Zero: Compass Points

The Compass Points thinking routine is intended to help us examine various propositions. It helps us think about an idea from a number of perspectives and eventually evaluate it. The routine has **four components**.

### 1. E = Excited

- What excites you about this idea or propositions? What's the upside?

### 2. W = Worrisome

- What do you find worrisome about this idea or proposition? What's the downside?

### 3. N = Need to Know

- What else do you need to know or find out about this idea or proposition?
- What additional information would help you to evaluate things?

### 4. S = Stance or Suggestion for Moving Forward

- What is your current stance or opinion on the idea or proposition?
- How might you move forward in your evaluation of this idea or proposition?

### Sample Propositions

- Teachers are not allowed to assign homework
- Your arms are twice as long as your legs.
- The weather is the same every day.
- It is illegal to sell fruit.
- The Fountain of Youth is discovered in Canada.

## PMI - Plus, Minus, Interesting

Create a PMI chart about **Patience**

*Patience is the ability to calmly wait for a long time without becoming annoyed or upset.*

What's easy about being patient? What's the hardest part of being patient?  
What do you find interesting about patience?

### Questions about Patience

What is something you've been waiting to do? Or to have?  
What does it feel like to be patient?

Other topics:

Anticipation  
Perseverance  
Resistance  
Indulgence



PMI Chart

Plus	Minus	Interesting

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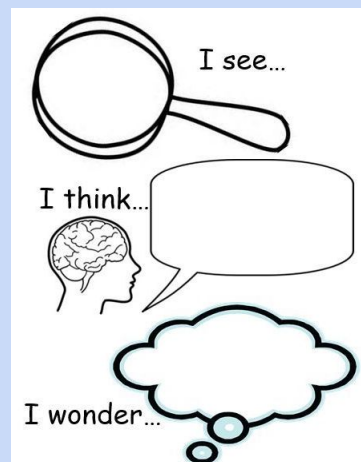
→ Directions: Look over these activities and choose one (or more) that seem interesting to you.

## See-Think-Wonder

Please take a look at this photograph below.

A larger version appears on the next page.

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



Women of Protest: Photographs from the Records of the National Woman's Party, 1875-1938  
<https://www.loc.gov/resource/mnwp.160022>

## Questioning/Ranking



Which season is the best?

- Winter
- Spring
- Summer
- Fall

List the top 4 reasons why you've chosen that season. Rank them in the order of importance. (Most important to least important).







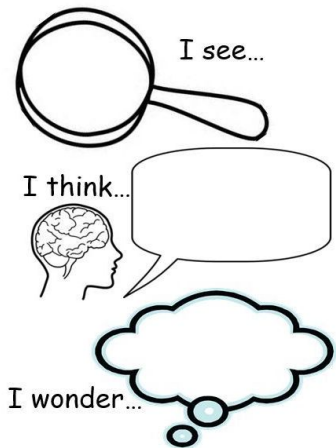
## Compass Points

Compass Points is a Visible Thinking Routine for examining propositions. This routine helps students flesh out an idea or proposition and eventually evaluate it.



## 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.



## 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?



## Questioning

Effective questions can support learners’ efforts to explain, interpret, and apply what they know. Open-ended questions can increase interest and support the development of a range of critical and creative thinking skills.

**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.**