

8 Issue Identification and Classification Diagram

When a small group of students is analyzing a large or complex issue in social studies, current events, or science classes (such as prejudice, crime, or pollution), use this tool. It is a good way to organize and understand thoughts and ideas related to issues that may be difficult to grasp.

9 Opposing Forces Chart

The Opposing Forces Chart is best used in small groups when you are trying to identify potential causes of and solutions for a problem or important challenges and opportunities. At the top of the chart, write the situation to be resolved. In the arrows under the DRIVING FORCES heading, record as many forces as you can that you think would move you toward your goal or problem solution. (Driving forces are positive actions, skills, people, tools, and procedures available to you at this time.) In the arrows under the OPPOSING FORCES heading, record as many forces as you can that you think are keeping you from reaching your goal or solving your problem. (Opposing forces are restraining actions, skills, people, tools, and procedures that are interfering with your attempts to resolve your situation.) Finally, prioritize the driving and opposing forces and begin eliminating the problem areas and capitalizing on the positive areas.

10 Organizing Tree

Use the Organizing Tree to organize information and structure your ideas on a topic in any content area. Write the major topic in the oval at the top of the tree, subheadings in other ovals, and information on diagonals extending from the subheadings.

11 Discussion Guide

For each of the given statements, choose a response from the scale. Share your thoughts by discussing them with a partner. After you have finished, revise your ratings as needed and be prepared to discuss your responses with the entire team.

12 Delphi Method

Each team member independently and anonymously writes down comments and suggestions about ways to deal with a problem, issue, or decision. Ideas are then compiled, reproduced, and distributed to team members for observation and reaction. Next, each member provides feedback to the entire team concerning each of the comments and proposed solutions or decisions. Finally, the members reach consensus on which solution or decision is most acceptable to the team as a whole.

13 Multi-voting

Each person on the team votes for as many ideas as he or she likes. The ideas that get the most votes are circled. The remaining votes are consolidated where possible to do so. Each person then votes again, but this time for only half the number of ideas that are circled. Multi-voting continues until the list is down to no more than three to five ideas.

14 The Dot Technique

The group brainstorms a number of items. Each member of the group receives three sticky dots—one red, one yellow, and one green. A red dot equals three points, a yellow dot equals two points, and a green dot equals one point. Team members then “spend” their three dots by placing them on the master list of brainstormed items. If a person feels strongly about one item, all three dots may be placed on that item, but if a person prefers to spread his or her feelings around, then dots may be spread over three different items. The value of the dots is then tallied for each item and the results of the tally are discussed. Repeat the procedure to reduce the number of items necessary. All items receiving at least one red dot should remain on the list for further discussion and voting.