



Tips for Teachers

If you are looking for powerful tools to enhance your students' thinking, here are eight suggestions that are useful across the curriculum.

Tools for Thought: Eight great tools

Task	Implementation possibilities
Inference – forming a conclusion based on what is known	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ analyzing events or issues■ understanding fictional characters or historical figures■ examining primary documents■ interpreting images and text passages■ interpreting mathematical data and scientific observations
Previewing – anticipating the content of text prior to reading	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ anticipating the content of a textbook chapter■ generating questions or creating a mindset before reading■ determining the suitability of resources for a research topic
Paraphrasing research – writing research findings in your own words	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ conducting inquiry■ reporting research findings■ extracting information from text■ reporting facts about an event or issue
Assembling evidence – organizing evidence to create an effective argument	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ determining the most useful evidence■ preparing an argument for or against a real or hypothetical situation
Explain the image – using visual clues to develop informative explanations of images	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ examining historical images■ interpreting scientific images■ creating informative captions■ examining an image as an introduction to a topic of study
Responsive questioning – asking questions that build on the ideas of others	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ discussing an issue or event in a small group or as a class■ responding to an oral presentation
Find another perspective – determining and actively seeking alternative perspectives to enhance our understanding	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ examining primary sources■ exploring real or fictional characters■ interpreting arguments or position statements■ uncovering issues■ generating problem solving strategies
Develop probing questions – framing purposeful questions to seek out or clarify information following a presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ responding to a speech or oral presentation■ understanding a scientific demonstration■ clarifying information provided in a presentation