



Categorization exercises

Follow the guidelines below to implement this method in your classroom



Description of the method

Categorization is the process of organizing information or objects into distinct or gradual groups based on shared characteristics. Categorization helps students make connections, identify patterns, and understand complex concepts. It enhances critical thinking, organizing knowledge and problem-solving skills.

What will you need

Practical organization

Groups: Whole class / group of students / pairs / individual

Duration: 10-15 minutes

Materials: paper, black/whiteboard

Implementation in the Classroom

Concept mapping

- Create visual concept maps to illustrate relationships between topics. Students can organize related ideas, keywords, and examples into clusters.

Sorting activities

- Provide students with a set of items (e.g., historical events, scientific, societal or cultural phenomena) and ask them to categorize them based on specific criteria (e.g., chronology, relatedness to a certain category). This can be organized throughout the use of *Graphic Organizers* like Venn diagrams, tables, or matrices to compare and contrast different categories. For instance, compare animal classifications (mammals, reptiles, birds).

Checklist	Instruction	Step
✓	Divide the class into small groups.	#1
✓	Provide each group with a list of examples of civic engagement activities (see examples below).	#2
✓	Ask each group to categorize the activities into different types of civic engagement.	#3
✓	Encourage students to discuss and justify their categorization choices within their groups.	#4
✓	After a set amount of time, have each group present their categorization and discuss their reasoning with the class.	#5

