

# SYNECTICS LESSON TEMPLATE

Title: Synectics – creative metaphors technique

Grade appropriate: K-college level

## **Objective (s) to be covered:**

1. Students will create new ways of thinking about old things, thus providing them with a fresh perspective (to be used to problem solve, write creatively, etc.)
2. Students may use a modified approach to make unfamiliar material familiar (after teacher provides brief introductory materials, for example).

## **Brief summary/outline:**

This could be placed anywhere in a unit when the teacher wants students to consider a new perspective.

1. Write the idea, concept, or word on the board (ex. “childhood”) and have students brainstorm adjectives associated with it.
2. List as many words as possible with all students contributing from their lists.
3. DIRECT ANALOGY: Choose four categories and have the students in groups brainstorm how \_\_\_\_\_ is like \_\_\_\_\_. The categories can be household objects, food, sporting events, types of music, geographic places, landforms, activities, social media, family reunion
4. PERSONAL ANALOGY: Next they “become” the object – cotton candy for example – and describe what it would feel like to *be* cotton candy. Help them avoid what cotton candy feels like to a human (sticky, like spun silk), but rather stretch students to personify it – “I get dizzy when I’m spun around in the cylinder.”
5. COMPRESSED CONFLICT: Using the list from step 3 and the associations in step 4, try to make a compressed conflict (ex. “restrained freedom” – put together two words that seem like they are the opposite of each other.)
6. Try to come up with a real-life issue, object, etc. that reflects this compressed conflict (“zoo animals” for restrained freedom maybe)

**Youtube Sample Lesson on Ecosystems:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2yX9\\_ESk8E](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2yX9_ESk8E)

## 4-Square Synectics

1. Brainstorm four objects from a particular category (examples: kitchen appliances, household items, the circus, forests, shopping malls).
2. In small groups, brainstorm what part of today's learning is similar in some way to the objects listed.
3. Create four analogies, one for each object.

*Example: How is the human digestive system like each household item: sink, old carpet, microwave, broom*

*Example: How is the Pythagorean Theorem like each musical instrument: piano, drum set, electric guitar, trumpet?*