

Connect, Extend, Challenge

A routine to make explicit connections to something previously learned or experienced.

Consider what you have just read, seen, or heard, and then ask yourself:

- How are the ideas and information **connected** to what you already know?
- What new ideas did you get that broadened your thinking or **extended** it in different directions?
- What **challenges** or puzzles emerge for you?

PURPOSE

What kind of thinking does this routine encourage?

This routine helps students connect new ideas to those they know and encourages them to reflect upon how they have extended their thinking as a result of what they are learning about or experiencing.

APPLICATION

When and where can I use it?

Use this routine when you want students to make explicit connections to something previously learned or experienced. Since it is designed to help students process new information actively, it works well as the conclusion to lessons in which students have been reading, watching videos, or otherwise taking in new information.

Another approach is to use the routine to close the discussion of a topic or unit of study in order to help students synthesize the information. Some questions you might consider in your planning: Are there connections to be made between this content and what students already know? Will students be engaging with new information that they might find challenging?

LAUNCH

What are some tips for starting and using this routine?

This routine works well with the whole class, in small groups, or individually. If you are using it in a group discussion, ask students to share their thoughts. As you process each step of the routine, document their comments either in a public space for all to see or in your own notes. If students are working individually, they could document their responses in a journal or in a way that can be displayed in class.

This thinking routine was developed as part of the Visible Thinking project at Project Zero at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Explore the full PZ Thinking Routine Toolbox at pz.harvard.edu/thinking-routines.