

## Template for Synectics

| Concept, Theme or Phenomena   |            |          |                              |           |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------|------------------------------|-----------|
| Similar                       | Feels Like | Opposite | Similar – Additional Sources | Synthesis |
|                               |            |          |                              |           |
| Definition In Your Own Words: |            |          |                              |           |

### Other Possible Prompts to Extend the Learning and Thinking Further:

1. How did you change your mind about the original issue after completing this process?
2. How would people in other parts of the world have defined this idea, theme or explained the phenomena?
3. How would you teach someone else what you have learned?

**Possible Secondary Topics to Use with Synectics:**

|                    |                      |                     |                     |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| advertising        | fidelity             | justice             | standards           |
| affirmative action | films                | libelous            | restraint           |
| anarchy            | fashionable          | nationalism         | restriction         |
| anti-Semitism      | freedom              | naturalism          | righteousness       |
| appropriateness    | gender equity        | nonpartisanship     | sabotage            |
| bias               | genocide             | objectionable       | security            |
| bigotry            | glass ceiling        | obscenity           | secularism          |
| books              | harmony              | offensive           | sexual harassment   |
| cable television   | heroism              | partisanship        | slander             |
| chaos              | heterogeneous        | peace               | society             |
| chauvinism         | imagination          | personal diaries    | Spanish inquisition |
| civilization       | inflammatory         | politically correct | Stocks              |
| computer hackers   | institutional racism | pornography         | submission          |
| communism          | interference         | prejudice           | suppression         |
| conformity         | Internet             | privacy             | television          |
| conservative       | intimidation         | prohibited          | theft               |
| crime              | intolerance          | propaganda          | threat              |
| democracy          | invasion             | protectionism       | tolerance           |
| discrimination     | investigation        | racism              | unclean             |
| disruption         | liberty              | radio               | Victorianism        |
| domination         | liberalism           | reasonable          | video               |
| e-mail             | magazines            | religion            | violation           |
| education          | mail fraud           | religious right     | violence            |
| espionage          | morality             | respect             | war                 |
| exploitation       | movies               | repression          | warranties          |
| exploration        | murder               | responsible         |                     |
| expression         |                      |                     |                     |
| evolution          |                      |                     |                     |

We could all add to this list from any content area. You can also add people's names, government functions and agencies, math strategies, variable qualities and types, organizations, specific music, specific behaviors, etc. Any controversial, difficult or abstract concept works very well with Synectics.

## Elementary or Beginner’s Adaptation of the Model

### Elementary/Beginner Templates for Synectics

| Concept, Theme or Phenomena   |            |          |            |                   |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------|------------|-------------------|
| Similar                       | Feels Like | Opposite | Importance | Part of What Else |
|                               |            |          |            |                   |
| Definition In Your Own Words: |            |          |            |                   |

**Teacher Note for Beginner version:** Notice that the last two steps for the beginner need to change to make this model less complex. It is highly recommended that this is a shared writing experience with the whole class or small group to model the thinking. Perhaps provide students with word banks to pick from for the columns. Use this adjusted template with students whose literacy level is below sixth grade.

#### **Selected references for this strategy:**

*Synectics* by W.J. Gordon (1961)

*Design Synectics - Stimulating Creativity in Design* by Nicholas Roukes, Published by Davis Publications, 1988

*Synectics-The Practice of Creativity* by George Prince 1970 (out of print)

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