

CSI: Colour Symbol Image



Choose a colour that you think best represents the essence of that idea.



Create a symbol that you think best represents the essence of that idea.



Sketch an image that you think best represents the essence of that idea.

purpose

This routine asks learners to identify and distill the essence of ideas - taken from their reading, viewing or listening - in nonverbal ways by using a colour, symbol and image to represent the big ideas.

Synthesising
& Organising
Ideas

PURPOSE

What kind of thinking does this routine encourage?

This routine is all about activating prior knowledge before a learning experience begins. It asks students to uncover initial thoughts, ideas, questions & understandings about a topic & then connect these to new thinking about the topic after they have received some instruction.

APPLICATION

When and where can it be used?

Use this routine:

- To enhance comprehension of reading, watching or listening.
- As a reflection on previous events or learning.
- **NB:** it is helpful if learners have some previous experience with highlighting texts for important ideas, connections, or events.

ASSESSMENT

How can I use this routine as an assessment?

- Look for their ability to capture the essence of the stimulus from which they are working. It is their explanations of their choices that provide the most insight.
- *Why did you choose that colour, or create that image?*
- *How does it connect with the big ideas of the stimulus?*
- To advance thinking look at the quality of the metaphors they are choosing.

LAUNCH

What are the steps needed for starting and using this routine?

1. **Set up** → After they have read a passage from a book, listened to a speaker, or viewed a video, have them think about the core ideas and make note of things that they find interesting, important or insightful.
2. **Choose a colour** → Each student selects a colour that they feel represents the core ideas. Record the colour and they explain and justify their choice in writing.
3. **Create a symbol** → Each student selects a symbol they feel represents the core ideas. **A symbol is a thing that stands for something else** Record the symbol and they explain and justify their choice in writing.
4. **Sketch an image** → Each student selects an image they feel represents the core ideas. **An image is like a photograph or drawing of a scene** This sketch is recorded and they explain and justify their choice in writing.
5. **Share the thinking** → Working with a partner or in a group, each student shares their colour and tells why they made that choice.
 - *How did it connect to the passage/ content the class is trying to understand?*
 - *How does that colour connect to the big ideas just read, heard or seen?*

Repeat the process symbol and image with explanations of choices.