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.

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.
**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.

Adapted by Alice Vigors 2017