

Hot Spots

Is this idea clearly true, false or somewhere between the two?



What makes it so uncertain?
(or almost certainly true or false)

How important is it? What makes it important?

purpose

This routine assists students in "spotting" thinking opportunities in situations that need more attention and where additional thought would be worthwhile.

Introducing
& Exploring
Ideas

PURPOSE

What kind of thinking does this routine encourage?

This routine asks learners to notice truth occasions within a topic or situation that might need more attention. With practice, students become more alert to situations where they might think more deeply about the truth of something.

APPLICATION

When and where can it be used?

Use this routine:

- ❑ Can be used on almost any topic or situation: to introduce a topic, to review a topic, to identify issues for discussion.
- ❑ Best used when students have some common knowledge of the topic already (though may not have formally studied it) to prevent everything being tagged as "uncertain".
- ❑ Younger learners may respond better to concrete situations

ASSESSMENT

How can I use this routine as an assessment?

- ❑ Are students able to indicate the importance of an idea?
- ❑ Are they able to justify their thinking with reasonable evidence?
- ❑ Are they able to discuss disagreements and the reasons for differing points of view and uncertainty?

Adapted by Alice Vigors 2018

LAUNCH

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

1. **Set up** → Identify a topic or situation to be examined.
2. **Identify Ideas** → Students identify ideas about the topic or situation as clearly TRUE, clearly FALSE, or uncertain and somewhere in the middle.
3. **Continuum** → Decide where to place each idea on the continuum between true and false. Students also need to decide on the importance (according to students' judgement). *What makes this idea this way?*
4. **Disagreements** → Discuss disagreements about true-false and importance. These do not need to be resolved but may raise further questions and can be used as an exploration for further study. The goal in this phase is to raise consciousness of uncertainty and the reasons for it.
5. **Reflecting on Thinking** → This routine may be shared in pairs or as a whole class. Documenting the thinking of this routine serves to show how thinking and understanding can grow and change in the pursuit of truth and certainty.

Truth
Hotspots
diagram

