

February 27, 2012  
Volume 1, Issue 18



## Upcoming Events

- ◆ Tech Tuesday: iPad Apps Tuesday, February 28, 2012 in Lincoln Elementary Library from 3:45 PM to 5 PM
- ◆ Tech Bootcamp: SMARTBoard Tuesday, March 13, 2012 in Lincoln Elementary computer lab from 3:45 PM to 5 PM

## TEAM Digital Resources

### Questioning

I discovered this technique during a recent webinar. The technique is quite good for helping you to write questions that will inspire your students. While technically not a digital resource, there are a couple of online resources available for this technique. They include a random question generator and an idea map. The newsletter is a little long, but I think the information is very useful for increasing the Questioning and Problem-solving indicators of the TEAM rubric.

### SCAMPER Technique

SCAMPER is a general-purpose checklist with idea-spurring questions — which is both easy to use and surprisingly powerful.

In this newsletter, I present a complete SCAMPER primer, along with two free creativity-boosting resources: a downloadable reference mind map and an online tool that generates random questions to get you out of a rut whenever you need.

SCAMPER is based on the notion that everything new is a modification of something that already exists. Each letter in the acronym represents a different way you can play with the characteristics of what is challenging you to trigger new ideas:

- **S** = Substitute
- **C** = Combine
- **A** = Adapt
- **M** = Magnify
- **P** = Put to Other Uses
- **E** = Eliminate (or Minify)
- **R** = Rearrange (or Reverse)

To use the SCAMPER technique, first state the problem you'd like to solve or the idea you'd like to develop. It can be anything. After pinpointing the challenge, it's then a matter of asking questions about it using the SCAMPER checklist to guide you.

### SCAMPER Reference

You will find below a comprehensive help

guide to using SCAMPER. There are more than 60 questions that can be asked, along with almost 200 words and expressions you can create associations with.



**Substitute** Think about replacing part of the problem, product or process with something else. By looking for replacements you can often come up with new ideas. You can change things, places, procedures, people, ideas, and even emotions.

### Helper Questions

- Can I replace or change any parts?
- Can I replace someone involved?
- Can the rules be changed?
- Can I use other ingredients or materials?
- Can I use other processes or procedures?
- Can I change its shape?
- Can I change its color, roughness, sound or smell?
- What if I change its name?
- Can I substitute one part for another?
- Can I use this idea in a different place?
- Can I change my feelings or attitude towards it?

### Trigger Words

alternate, colorize, exchange, fill in for, locum, proxy, relieve, rename, repack, replace, reposition, reserve, shape, stand in for, surrogate, swap, switch, take the place of



### Combine

Think about combining two or more parts of your problem to create a different product or process or to enhance their synergy. A great deal of

creative thinking involves combining previously unrelated ideas, goods, or services to create something new.

### Helper Questions

- What ideas or parts can be combined?
- Can I combine or recombine its parts' purposes?
- Can I combine or merge it with other objects?
- What can be combined to maximize the number of uses?
- What materials could be combined?
- Can I combine different talents to improve it?

### Trigger Words

amalgamate, become one, blend, bring together, coalesce, come together, commingle, conjoin, fuse, intermix, join, link, merge, mingle, mix, package, relate, unite



### Adapt

Think about adapting an existing idea to solve your problem. The solution of your problem is probably out there already. Bear in mind that all new ideas or inventions are borrowed to some degree.

### Helper Questions

- What else is like it?
- Is there something similar to it, but in a different context?
- Does the past offer any lessons with similar ideas?
- What other ideas does it suggest?
- What could I copy, borrow or steal?
- Whom could I emulate?
- What ideas could I incorporate?
- What processes can be adapted?
- What different contexts can I put my concept in?
- What ideas outside my field can I incorporate?

### Trigger Words

acclimatize, adapt oneself, adapt, adjust, alter, amend, become accustomed, bend, change, conform, contextualize, copy, emulate, familiarize, find your feet, fit, get a feel for, get used to, incorporate, make suitable, match, modify, readjust, refashion, revise, rework, settle in, transform, vary



### Magnify

Think about ways to magnify or exaggerate your idea. Magnifying your idea or parts of it may increase its perceived value or give you new insights about what components are most important.

### Helper Questions

- What can be magnified or made larger?
- What can be exaggerated or overstated?
- What can be made higher, bigger or stronger?
- Can I increase its frequency?
- What can be duplicated? Can I make multiple copies?
- Can I add extra features or somehow add extra value?

### Trigger Words

amplify, augment, boost, enlarge, expand, extend, grow, heighten, increase, intensify, lengthen, make seem more important, multiply, overemphasize, overstress, raise, strengthen, stretch out



### Put to Other Uses

Think of how you might be able to put your current idea to other uses, or think of what you could reuse from somewhere else in order to solve your own problem. Many times, an idea only becomes great when applied differently than first imagined.

### Helper Questions

- What else can it be used for?
- Can it be used by people other than those it was originally intended for?
- How would a child use it? An older person?
- How would people with different disabilities use it?
- Are there new ways to use it in its current shape or form?
- Are there other possible uses if it's modified?
- If I knew nothing about it, would I figure out the purpose of this idea?
- Can I use this idea in other markets or industries?

### Trigger Words

abuse, apply, avail yourself of, behave, benefit, bring into play, contextualize, deplete, draw on, consume, employ, enjoy, exercise, exhaust, expend, exploit, get through, handle, luxuriate, make use of, manage, manipulate, mistreat, operate, reposition, source, spend, take advantage of, take pleasure in, tap, treat, use up, utilize, waste, wear out, work



### Eliminate (or Minify)

Think of what might happen if you eliminated or minimized parts of your idea. Simplify, reduce or eliminate components. Through repeated trimming of ideas, objects, and processes, you can gradually narrow your challenge down to that part or function that is most important.

### Helper Questions

- How can I simplify it?
- What parts can be removed without altering its function?
- What's non-essential or unnecessary?
- Can the rules be eliminated?
- What if I made it smaller?
- What feature can I understate or omit?
- Should I split it into different parts?
- Can I compact or make it smaller?

### Trigger Words

abolish, control, curb, destroy, disregard, do away with, eradicate, exclude, excrete, expel, exterminate, get rid of, jettison, kill, lessen, limit, liquidate, lower, moderate, modulate, pass, play down, purge, reduce, reject, remove, restraint, restrict, shorten, simplify, temper, throw out, tone down, underemphasize, waste, wipe out



## **Rearrange (or Reverse)**

Think of what you would do if part of your problem, product or process worked in reverse or were done in a different order.

### **Helper Questions**

- What other arrangement might be better?
- Can I interchange components?
- Are there other patterns, layouts or sequences I can use?
- Can I transpose cause and effect?
- Can I change pace or change the schedule of delivery?
- Can I transpose positives and negatives?
- Should I turn it around? Up instead of down? Down instead of up?
- What if I consider it backwards?
- What if I try doing the exact opposite of what I originally intended?

### **Trigger Words**

adjourn, annul, back up, change the date, change, delay, drive backward, go backward, invalidate, invert, move backward, move, overturn, postpone, put off, quash, readjust, rearrange, relocate, render null and void, reorder, reorganize, repeal, reposition, reschedule, reshuffle, retreat, swap, switch, transpose, turn around, undo, withdraw

## **SCAMPER Resources**

### **1. SCAMPER Random Question Tool**

There are many ways to use SCAMPER. For example, you can sequentially go through all the questions in the previous section as fast as you can; or you can stay on each question until you think you exhausted all possibilities.

However, when it comes to creativity, getting random — and unexpected — input can really help your mind find a solution for that 'impossible' problem.

**SCAMPER Random Question Tool:** it shows you an unexpected question drawn from all the SCAMPER questions in the previous section. Think about a problem that has been nagging you then give the tool a try to see how many options you can generate.

<http://litemind.com/scamper-tool/>

### **2. SCAMPER Reference Mind Map**

All of the SCAMPER questions from the previous sections are put together in a mind map, formatted for a single printed page. Think of it as a handy one-page reference you can use whenever you are stuck or just need a kick start to get your creative juices flowing.

<http://litemind.simplusmedia.com/wp-content/uploads/misc/litemind-scamper-reference.pdf>