

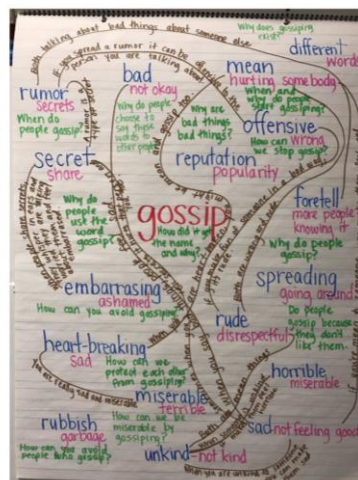
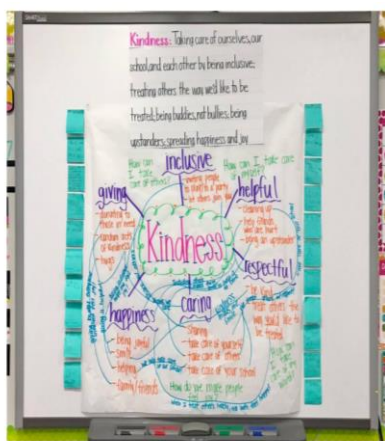
MAKING MEANING

A routine for building understanding through collaboration

Choose a concept, idea, topic, or event to build meaning around (e.g. community, bullying, learning, sustainability, revolution, simultaneous equations, *Hamlet*, minibests, colonisation, topographic maps, changing states of matter, space, baking a cake, artificial intelligence, limited liability, weather, etc...)

Guide the group through the following prompts one at a time and record responses on chart paper.

- Taking turns, each person **responds** to the chosen focus with a single word. Each person's word must be unique so that it adds to the collective meaning.
- Each person **adds on** to someone else's word with an additional word or phrase so as to elaborate in some way.
- Collectively, the group **makes connections** between ideas that are already written on the chart paper, drawing lines and writing on those lines to illuminate the connections.
- Each person **records a question** about the focus topic based on what has emerged thus far.
- Based on the group's Making-Meaning discussion, each individual now **writes their own definition** of the ideas, topic, concept, or event being explored on a sticky note and reads it aloud to the group before sticking it on the chart paper.



Adapted from 'The Power of Making Thinking Visible' (Ritchhart and Church, 2020)