

MAP BEFORE MACHINE

3-Minute Thinking Card · Somagraphic Learning™

Concept / Topic: _____

Date: _____

EXAMPLE PROMPT (substitute with your own concept above)

Why do some tech companies grow faster when more people use them?

Complete all three steps without opening any AI tool. You have 3-5 minutes. **Hard stop:** 5 minutes.

STEP 1 ATTEMPT

Write or sketch what you already think is happening. No need to be right. Just start. Messy is expected.

Write or sketch at least 2 things you think might be true (words, shapes, or arrows all count):

1.

2.

3. **Optional** - a third idea if you have one:

STEP 2 MAP ONE RELATIONSHIP

Pick **any two** ideas from **Step 1** and **connect** them. The word **'because'** forces you to explain **why**, not just what.

Complete this sentence:

concept 1 _____ **affects** _____ concept 2 _____ **because** _____ the reason _____

For classroom use - Think-Pair-Share (optional facilitation step)

Compare your **Step 2 sentences** with a **partner**. Does their **'because'** match yours, differ, or reveal something new? One round of comparison **deepens** the conceptual structure **before** AI entry.

STEP 3 FLAG YOUR GAP (REFINE)

Name one thing you genuinely **don't** understand yet. Then turn only that gap into your **AI question**.

What is the one thing you are most uncertain about right now?

I'm not sure about:

► **RULE:** Your **AI question** must come from the **gap above only** - not a new topic.

Now write one AI question (based only on the gap above)

I will ask AI:

You may now open AI. But only to refine or extend what you wrote above. Not to replace it.