

Context Map

Context Maps are a rapid creativity & analysis tool that enables you to lead a collaborative conversation.

1. Bring your team together and ask them to name the eight most significant features of the problem, as it's initially understood.
2. When a team member names a significant feature, ask the other members to expand on that idea. Write the feature in one of the petals, and feel free to make notes around the petal.
3. As the person with the pen, consider asking another team member to jump on, grab the pen from you, and act as the provocateur and recorder.
4. When you hear a team member toss out a feature, for example, 'Cost!,' help the team discuss the various aspects of the issue being captured. "Do you mean price? The cost to us or to the customer? Do we measure this with money or time?" Make notes around the petal and be willing to cross out the first version you wrote and replace it.
5. Finish filling in the petals. If it doesn't look "right," do another!

Expert Edition—While brainstorming can often head down rabbit holes (where a team chases small details around one topic), setting the initial goal to capture “the eight most significant features” often leads to a team completing the petals quickly. You can then focus on details or build a 2nd map to iterate.

