

# AFFINITY

## MAPPING

Affinity mapping is a great next step to generate additional ideas and insights after doing an initial brainstorming session. This technique helps uncover hidden patterns within and helps identify associations between ideas by grouping them and sorting them into categories.

The other benefit of using affinity mapping with your students that it helps to uncover where their thinking is at-- are all of the students seeing the possible solutions to the driving question the same way, or do some of them have a different perspective and see things differently.

### DIRECTIONS:

Have the students get into their teams for the project or place them into small teams. Have each group of students write the driving question on a large sheet of paper or on a white board. Afterward, have the students place all of the ideas that their group came up with in the brainstorming phase underneath.

Explain to the students that (without talking) you would like them to organize their ideas into categories that make sense to them. Let the students know that if they do not agree with where someone else on the team put an idea they can (politely) move it somewhere else. Any ideas that do not fit in a category can be placed to the side in the "parking lot".

Tell the students that once their group has agreed as to how the ideas should be grouped, they can talk about what each group should be titled and write that title above each group of ideas.

Once done, have the students share with the rest of the class the categories that they came up with and discuss the following questions:

- What was it like to try and sort your ideas as a group without talking?
- Did you have any insights about what your team members thought about different ideas?

