

# September FAMILY THINKING CHALLENGE

## Headlines

### Purpose

Headlines is a thinking routine that takes the idea of newspaper-type headlines as a way to sum up or capture the heart of an event, idea, concept, or topic.

### What to do

As a family, write a headline that captures the most important part of your summer vacation. If your summer could be summed up in one headline, what would it say? **\*\*Please have your child return your summer headline to his/her teacher by September 30<sup>th</sup>.**

We can't wait to see your family's thinking! Happy headlining! 😊

# October FAMILY THINKING CHALLENGE

## Step Inside

### Purpose

Step Inside is a routine that helps students explore different perspectives and viewpoints as they try to imagine things, events, problems, or issues differently. Students will place themselves within the person or object to see things from another point of view.

### What to do

- Identify the person or object you would like to explore more.
- Imagine you are that person or object.
- What can this person or thing see, observe, or notice?
- What might the person or thing know, understand, hold true, or believe?
- What might the person or thing care deeply about?
- What might the person or thing wonder about or question?

# Step Inside Suggestions

Here are some possible  
viewpoints or perspectives to  
explore:

- Another family member
- A historical or famous figure
- A holiday figure or object
- A character in a story
- A character in a movie
- Pets
- An important object/thing

\*\*Please have your child return your Step Inside  
to his/her teacher by October 30<sup>th</sup>.

# November FAMILY THINKING CHALLENGE

## Circle of Viewpoints

### Purpose

Circle of Viewpoints is a routine that allows students to explore different and diverse perspectives. It allows them to understand that people think and feel differently about shared experiences.

### What to do

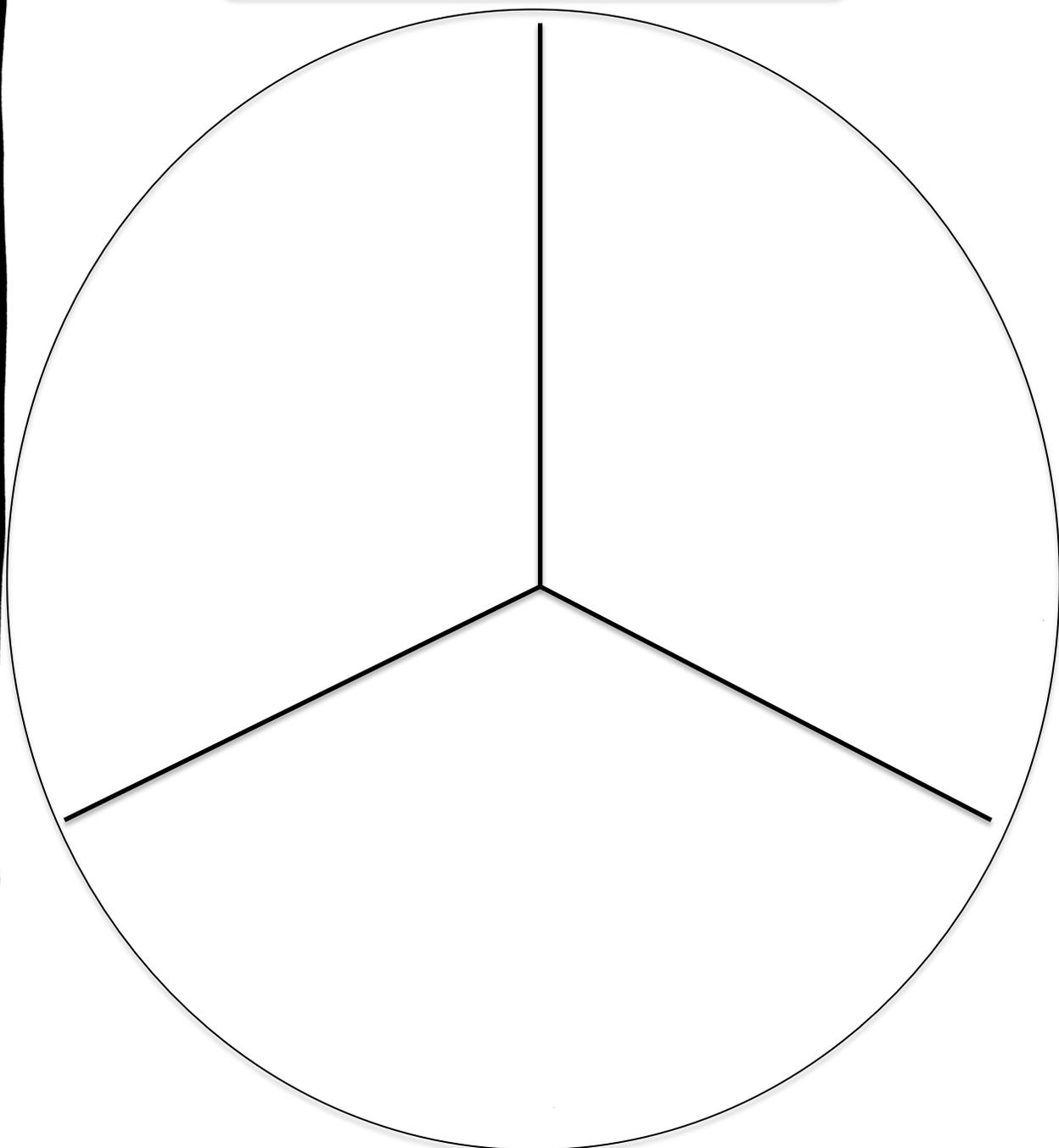
•As a family, think about the first Thanksgiving. To read about the first Thanksgiving as a family, you can reference this website:

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/first-thanksgiving/>

- Pick three different perspectives to explore.
- Possible perspectives: the Pilgrims, the Native Americans, the animals living in North America, or the North American land. Feel free to add any other ones you can come up with!
- Record some ideas on the attached template. Use each section of the circle for a different perspective. **\*\*Please have your child return your Circle of Viewpoints to his/her teacher by November 30<sup>th</sup>.**

# Circle of Viewpoints

The First Thanksgiving



Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

# January FAMILY THINKING CHALLENGE

## Color, Symbol, Image

Check out Dolsen's Cultures of Thinking website to learn more about Visible Thinking and find additional routine information! <http://dolsenthinkers.weebly.com/>

### Purpose

Color, Symbol, Image is a routine that requires students to think metaphorically (A metaphor is a comparison between like things. It is a word or phrase that means one thing and is used to refer to another, similar thing.). Personal connections and feelings are expressed as students synthesize the material being presented, by representing their thinking in a non-verbal way.

### What to do

As a family, think of a color, symbol, and image that represent a piece of your winter break. This can be from one experience/event, or your break as a whole. Be as creative as you'd like! 😊

**\*\*Please have your child return your CSI to his/her teacher by January 29<sup>th</sup>.**

# February FAMILY THINKING CHALLENGE

## See-Think-Wonder

Check out Dolsen's Cultures of Thinking website to learn more about Visible Thinking and find additional routine information! <http://dolsenthinkers.weebly.com/>

### Purpose

See-Think-Wonder is a routine that encourages students to make careful observations and thoughtful interpretations. It helps to spark curiosity and sets the stage for inquiry.

### What to do

As a family, pick a photo from a book, magazine, family photo album, etc. Once you have your picture, look closely to see what you notice. What stands out to you? What do you **see**? What do you **think** about what you see? What does what you see and think make you **wonder**? When we take a close look at a picture, we can notice key details. You might be surprised to discover the conversations that can happen from looking at just one picture! Record your family thinking on the recording sheet. Please note that the see, think, and wonder should go together in sequence. For example, the "think" and "wonder" should refer back to the "see." (E.g. *I see a group of kids standing outside. I think they they all know each other. I wonder why they don't have any adults with them?*)

**\*\*Please have your child return your See-Think-Wonder to his/her teacher by February 29<sup>th</sup>.**

Feel free to also attach your image, so we can see where your thinking began! 😊

# March FAMILY THINKING CHALLENGE

## Compass Points

Check out Dolsen's Cultures of Thinking website to learn more about Visible Thinking and find additional routine information! <http://dolsenthinkers.weebly.com/>

### Purpose

Compass Points is a routine that encourages students to explore various aspects of an idea before taking a stand or expressing an opinion. Students answer the following questions as they examine any given idea:

N= What else do you need to know or find out about? What additional information would help you to evaluate things? OR What kinds of things would you need?

S= What is your current stance or opinion? OR What suggestions do you have?

E= What excites you about this idea or proposition? What's the upside?

W= What do you find worrisome? What's the downside?

### What to do

As a family, discuss and create your compass points based on one of the following ideas:

- a family proposal, rule, or plan
- an upcoming event
- a new experience

\*\*Please have your child return your Compass Points to his/her teacher by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

# May FAMILY THINKING CHALLENGE

## Tug-of-War

Check out Dolsen's Cultures of Thinking website to learn more about Visible Thinking and find additional routine information! <http://dolsenthinkers.weebly.com/>

### Purpose

Many of the issues that arise within a community have opposing sides. The Tug-of-War routine allows students to identify "tugs" for both sides of a dilemma. Through discussion and reflection, each "tug" is strategically placed upon the spectrum based on the reasoning and support provided by the students.

### What to do

As a family, either:

- Discuss where you stand on the following question:  
*Should Michigan students have school all year?*
- Or, discuss your opinion about a family dilemma/debate.

Each family member should share his/her stance. Try to come up with different ways to convince each other! If you identify a convincing reason, your justification may sway the thinking of someone in your family. On the other hand, if you hear a convincing reason, your thinking may change!

As you share reasons to support your opinion, record them on the attached recording sheet. Once you have identified reasons for both sides, be sure to mark the side you choose to end on.

**\*\*Please have your child return your Tug-of-War to his/her teacher by May 27<sup>th</sup>.**