



Structure: The three-step technique

Activity	Objective
Step 1: Examples	
List five or six of the most typical examples that are as different as possible.	To get material that will illustrate similarities and differences
Step 2: Analyse	
Pattern recognition – identify the common characteristics and their interrelations.	To form the hypothesis: the prototype concept
Step 3: Testing	
1. Borderline cases	
Compare our concept with an example that either lacks features that are in our structure, or has others that are absent from it.	To identify all those features in our structure that are merely accidental.
2. Contrasting cases	
Compare our concept with an example that doesn't share one or more of the core characteristics of our structure.	To identify the core characteristics and their interrelations.
3. Doubtful cases	
Test the core characteristics by examining a case in which it would be difficult to accept their consequences.	To refine the distinctions in our analysis to get a clearer, sharper understanding of the core characteristics and their interrelations.