



# TOOLBOX OF IDEAS

## CUBING

This strategy was originally intended to be a writing strategy to explore topics or subjects from a variety of dimensions. A concrete visual of a cube is used to consider these multiple dimensions.

It is best to introduce the activity with a familiar topic, going through each of the steps to model their application to that particular topic. Then, students can work individually or in groups to go through each side of the cube.

Cubing encourages students to look at information in different ways and to use different ways of thinking – critical thinking! The information that comes from the different considerations of the material can be used to complete descriptive writing assignments that can begin with short paragraphs and evolve into longer essays or research papers.

Create a cube – use net attached or have students create their own net.

- 1) **DESCRIBE IT** – including color, shape, size – How would you describe the issue/topic/problem?
- 2) **COMPARE IT** – what it is similar to or different from – it's sort of like... (use prior knowledge)
- 3) **ASSOCIATE IT** – what it makes you think of – How does this topic/problem connect other issues/subjects/problems?
- 4) **ANALYZE IT** – tell how it is made or what it is composed of – How would you break the problem/issue into smaller parts?
- 5) **APPLY IT** – tell how it can be used – How does it help you understand other topics/issues/problems?
- 6) **ARGUE FOR/AGAINST IT** – take a stand and support it – **JUSTIFY** – I am for this because/ This works because/I agree because