# Synectics

Participants develop a metaphor between the topic of the presentation and an unrelated concept. This process can activate prior understandings, honors what the participants already know about the topic, or create new insights. It can be used as an opening activity, or as a closing activity.

The following is an adaptation of synectics that can be used during a presentation

1. Present the topic
2. Provide one to unrelated concepts for participants to develop metaphors
3. Participants draw and label a picture depicting their metaphor
4. Participants present their picture, describing the metaphor, as well as where the metaphor does not fit

For example, participants are asked to compare Multi-Tiered Systems of Support to a mode of transportation. They choose a VW Bug. The driver is the leadership team. The gas gauge represents using data to make decisions. The back seat carries children to a new destination. Everyone gets a seat, although some need a booster seat, while others need an infant car seat to safely reach their destination. The destination is positive outcomes for all students. The team draws a picture of the VW bug, the people in the bug, the different parts of the bug, and label each of the parts according to how they align with MTSS.



Adapted from Joyce, B., Wiel, M., and Calhoun, E., (2004). *Models of Teaching, 7th Ed.* Pearson, AB: Boston.