

# Cognitive Thinking Activities Set 2

## Making Critical Thinking Fun

Author: Kelley Dos Santos Kremer, M.Ed.  
Book Design: Kati Baker

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# Taboo

## Cognitive Thinking Strategies:

### Categorization, Association, Convergent Thinking, Perspectives, Prediction

**Taboo** can be used to reinforce learning in the classroom. The goal is for one person to give his or her partner clues to help correctly guess the unknown word. However, there are certain words that cannot be used as clues—these words are “taboo.” Unlike **Password**, where clues are limited to one word, clues in **Taboo** can include phrases and gestures. The guesser can guess as many times as necessary in the predetermined amount of time (twenty seconds is usually good).

Before the game, create five **Taboo** prompts on index cards. Then model the game for the class. Any subject can be used as the basis for this game. After everyone understands the rules and objective, ask students to create their own cards in the following format:

<b>White House (unknown word)</b>	
1. President	} 3 Taboo clues
2. Washington, D.C.	
3. Government	

A typical round might sound like this:

**“This is the place where the leader of our country lives.”**

Guesser Response: Washington, D.C.

**“It has the color of a marshmallow in its name.”**

Guesser Response: White

**“That’s part of it. Pennsylvania Avenue.”**

Guesser Response: White House

If the guesser correctly identifies the word, the team receives one point. If the time expires, or if the clue giver accidentally uses a taboo word, then the team does not receive a point for that round. A leader (either the teacher or a member of another team) should stand behind the clue giver to make sure that a taboo word is not used.

# Palindromes

A palindrome is a word or phrase that is the same forward and backward:

dad  
noon  
mom  
kayak  
evil olive  
wet stew  
Madam, I'm Adam.  
Was it a cat I saw?

Make a list of palindromes below.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_



# Palindrome Numbers and Shapes

Some numbers are the same backward as they are forward.

Examples are:

101  
2,992  
70,307

How many number palindromes can you think of? List some of them below.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Now draw a few **shape** palindromes.