Become Familiar with Seeing Reason

1. Examine the *Seeing Reason* Web site. Familiarize yourself with the tool and read associated resources such Overview and Benefits, Try the Tool, Project Examples, and Instructional Strategies.
2. When you are ready to use the *Seeing Reason Tool* with your class, visit the Teacher Workspace to set up a project where students will save individual maps. In the teacher workspace, supply:

   Project Title: Bridges

   Research Question: What factors influence bridge strength?

   Teams: Each team needs a workspace assigned. Assign teams as follows: Team1, Team2, and so on.

3. Set up a test team as well and make practice maps to uncover potential directions student mapping might go, and to refine the investigation.

Introduce Students to Causal Mapping Using Seeing Reason

1. Using a projector system and networked computer, introduce students to the *Seeing Reason* mapping tool and explore the Try Out the Tool demonstration space together.
2. Start by discussing the sample map.
3. Next, clear the map (using button at bottom of page), and make a map of student thinking about a non-research-based question such as, "What makes a song popular?"
4. Show students how to read, construct, and describe factors and relationships. Demonstrate how chains of factors emerge as discussion goes deeper.
5. Show students how they can support their map models by including definitions, quotes, citations, or data in the factor and relationship description fields.
6. Explain that maps can show how thinking changes over time, and encourage students to engage in cycles of mapping, research, and discussion.
7. Tell students they will work in teams so they can discuss their developing ideas.
8. Explain that you plan to examine their developing maps, looking for opportunities to support and guide their learning. Discuss the comments feature, and agree on how you will use it.