

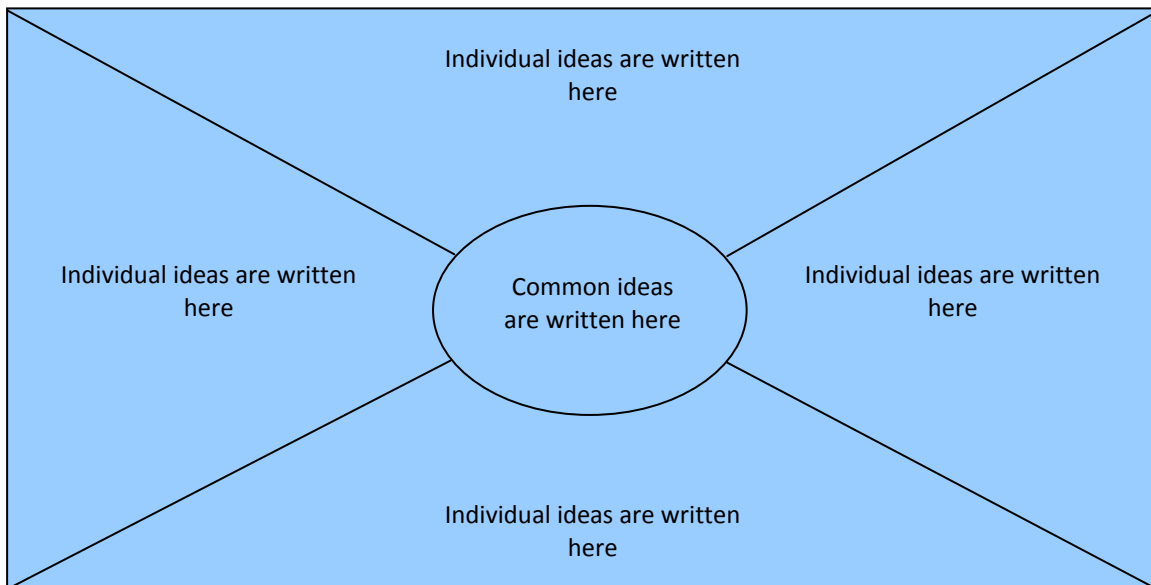
## PLACEMAT CONSENSUS ACTIVITY

### Functions

In this strategy, participants are divided into small groups, gathered around a piece of chart paper. First, participants will individually think about the following question:

***What concepts about functions are most important for students to learn in high school mathematics?***

Participants then write down their ideas on their own section of the chart paper. Then students share ideas to discover common elements, which can be written in the centre of the chart paper.



### Why Use with Students?

- Give all students an opportunity to share ideas and learn from each other in a cooperative small-group discussion.

### Advantages for Students

Students will:

- have an opportunity to reflect and participate.
- engage with others and extend their learning while accomplishing a task.

### Tips and Resources

- The strategy can be used with a wide variety of questions and prompts.
- Use the placemat strategy for a wide range of learning goals, for example:
  - to encourage students to share ideas and come to a consensus about a concept/topic
  - to activate the sharing of prior knowledge among students\*
  - to help students share problem-solving techniques
  - to facilitate peer review and coaching on a particular type of problem or skill
  - to take group notes during a video or oral presentation.
- You may choose several questions or problems for simultaneous consideration in a placemat strategy. To start, each group receives a different question or problems to work on. Once they have completed their discussion, the groups rotate through the various questions or problems until all have been explored.
- Groups of 2 to 4 are ideal for placemat, but it can also work with up to 7 students in a group.

\*The learning goal of our use of placemat consensus is to share our common knowledge of functions.

