

**Faculty:** Alma Abdul-Hadi Jadallah  
**Course:** Conf 650 Advanced Skills  
Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution  
**Title:** The use of metaphors and mapping skills  
**Objective:** Take stock of the students' skills, competencies and theory  
Allow immediate exchange of information between the students and the faculty  
Visualize the link between theory, competencies and skills

**Time allocated:** 1.5 hrs

In person OR online using White Board or Jam Board.

### **Activity**

**Step 1:** Ask the students to imagine that there is a toolbox to fill with all the skills that they will need to serve as third party in a conflict situation (mediator, facilitator, problem-solver).

**Step 2:** The students draw a toolbox and are requested to fill it in with a list of skills that they have acquired in their studies. Examples include: the ability to conduct research, ask questions, analyze a story, develop talking points, develop a presentation, engage in active listening.

**Step 3:** The students write up a list of competencies that enables them to do something successfully and efficiently. Sample competencies include critical thinking, imagination and creativity, digital literacy, business accumen, problem solving.

**Step 4:** The students are requested to list all the theories that they have learned in other disciplines or in their field of study.

**Step 5:** The students are asked to organize the information visually to represent the relationship between the theories, the skills and the competencies needed to perform their roles as a third party. The concepts are represented as circles or boxes so that relationships between them are established through the use of lines to indicate connections.

**Step 6:** Debrief the exercise as a group. Students can share their reactions, general observations, define the theories for their peers should they be not familiar with them, and finally share the feedback on the exercise.