



## Sample activity to promote evaluation skills

This resource was developed as part of an Applied Technology 2020/2021 CPD webinar for CBA 1 “Exploring the application of controlled systems in a local context” which took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020. All materials used during this webinar can be viewed in the Technologies section of [www.jct.ie](http://www.jct.ie) within the Elective Workshops tile.

Website Link:

[https://www.jct.ie/technologies/cpd\\_supports\\_applied\\_technology\\_elective\\_workshops](https://www.jct.ie/technologies/cpd_supports_applied_technology_elective_workshops)

During the webinar, attendees considered the purpose of developing the skills to form a personal opinion as part of the evaluation process. During this process students are encouraged to reflect on their opinion prior to commencing research. Once students carry out their research on the topic, they analysis the information gathered to formulate a developed opinion. This strategy guides students through this evaluation process, encouraging discussion and collaboration with others. Student’s final personal opinion may or may not be influenced by their findings, but they will be better placed to justify their opinion with supporting evidence.

### **Possible strategies to support students in developing a personal opinion.**

**Discussion activity:** students discuss the following questions in class

- What is a personal opinion?
- How do you develop your opinion?

A suggested activity to capture a classroom discussion is to use a fishbone diagram. This diagram visually explores the factors which influence the development of an opinion.

This activity was developed for a 1<sup>st</sup> year class but could be adapted for other year groups. The research, discussion and reflection activity were designed to encourage students to consider a range of viewpoints and research relating to the chosen topic and reflect on their findings. This demonstrated to students how their opinion might change or develop through the research and analysis process. The stimulus question in this instance was ‘Should mobile phones be banned in schools?’

### **What is included in this PDF?**

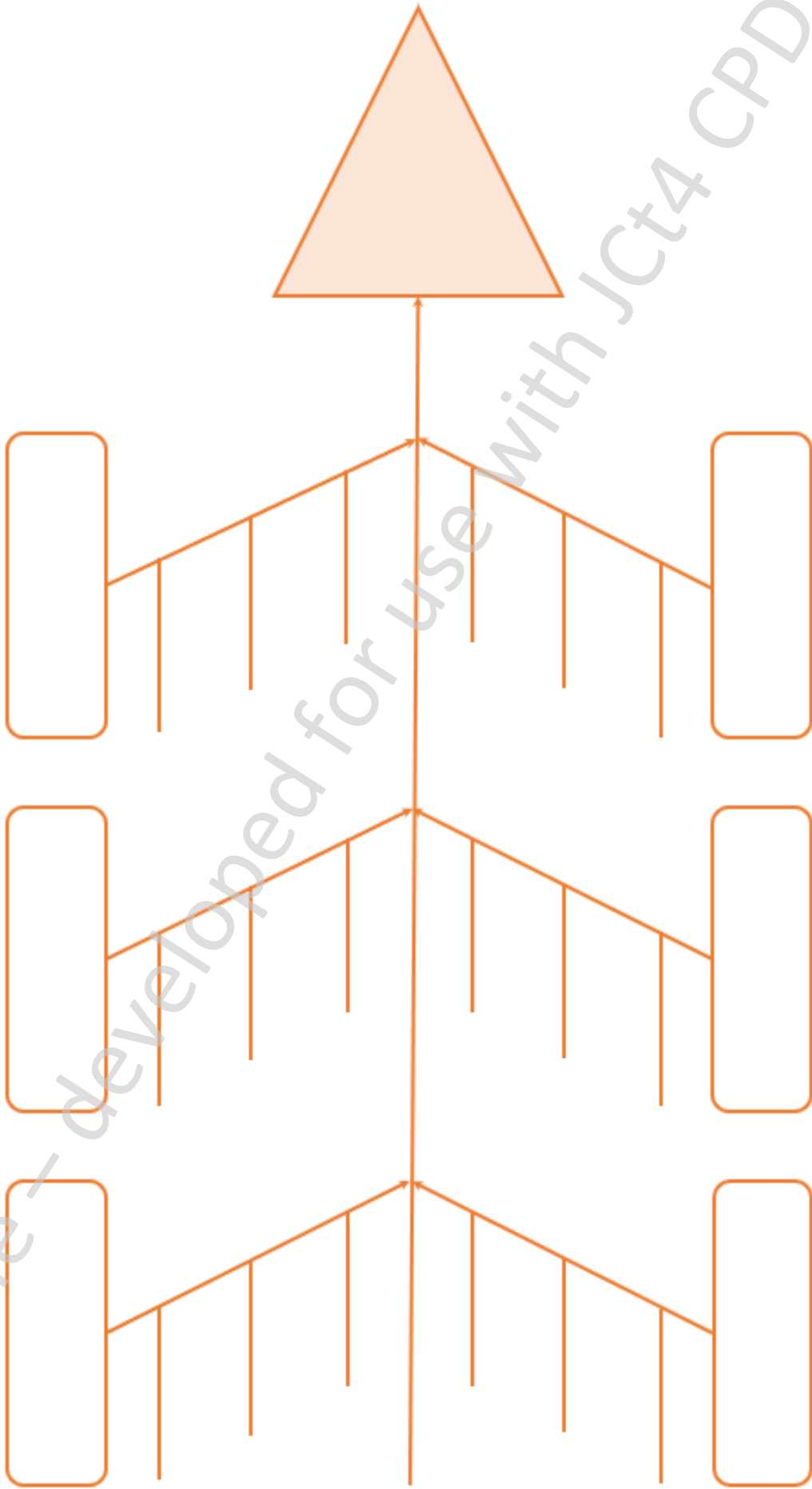
- Fishbone diagram template
- Teacher developed worksheet

A big thank you to the teacher involved for making this resource available to the JCT4 team.

**Note:** It is recommended that you watch the Elective webinar in conjunction with using this resource to contextualise the resource and develop a better understanding of how the resource was developed.

Discuss the questions below in class. Use the fishbone diagram to help visualise your discussion

- What is a personal opinion?
- How do you develop your opinion?



# Developing a personal opinion in Applied Technology



Question:

Should mobile phones be banned in schools?



What is **your** initial opinion on the question above?

---

---

---

---

---



**Research and explore the question above:** Make notes of articles, websites and any other relevant information you might find as part of your research? Make a list of pro's and con's of using mobile phones in school.

Add more sheets if needed



Invite others to have collaborative discussions using online platforms. e.g [Padlet](#)



Listen to other opinions and **Keep an open mind** when researching a topic





**Conclusions:** What findings/conclusions did you draw from your research? Explaining different opinions related to the chosen topic

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**Discussion with others:** From talking to other people and listening to their opinion, did these interactions help with developing your own opinion? How did it help?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



**Pause:** Read your initial opinion. What was your opinion before? What is your opinion now? Has your opinion changed? If so, how and why?

---

---

---

---



**Review:** What did you already know and think about this topic? How has your thinking changed about this area/topic?

---

---

---

---



**Reflect:** What is your opinion on the question above now? What influences your opinion? And can you change your opinion?

---

---

---

---

**My personal opinion is important in Applied Technology**