



ACTIVITY: Hexagonal Thinking

Hexagonal thinking activities are a great way to make abstract concepts more concrete. It also helps students to see ideas from new perspectives.

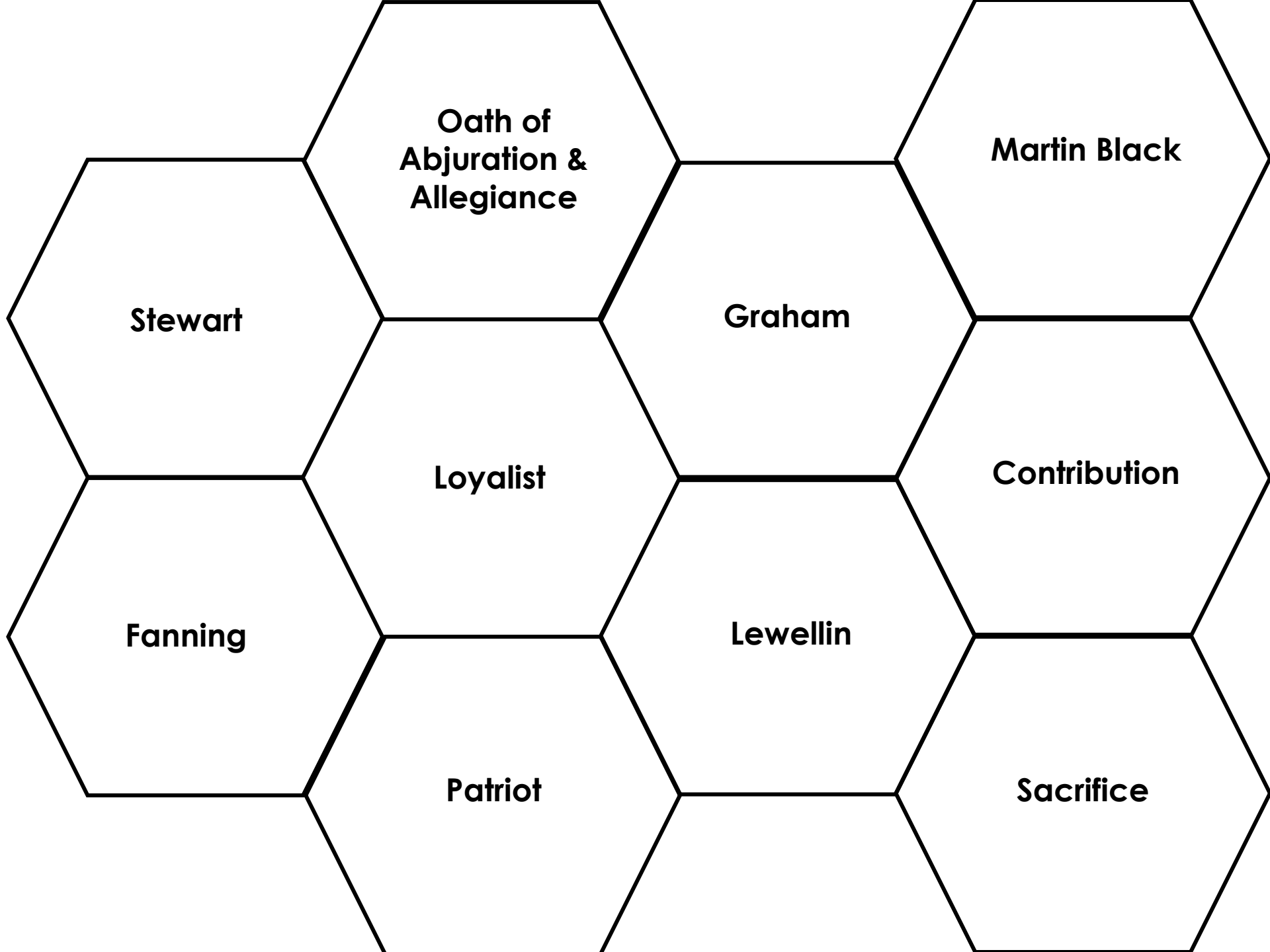
First, prepare the hexagons. This can be an individual activity or done collaboratively. It draws in learners of all levels and encourages deep discussion. You will need one set of hexagons for each group. Make the appropriate number of copies. If this will be a one-and-done for you, regular paper may be fine – but if you will do this more than once or even throughout the day with different classes, card stock may work better.

Look at the words on the hexagons. Most can be used with multiple lessons and align with NC American history standards. The first page is an example based on the Individual Stories Gallery lesson. If there are any that you do not want to use, simply pull them out. If there are other hexagons that you want to add, use the blank sheet of hexagons.

To use the hexagons, put the students in groups. Give them a stack of hexagons. Instruct them to lay out the hexagons so that they are touching – but wherever they touch, they must explain the connection between the terms on those two hexagons. That connection might be physical, political, ideological, etc., and there may be multiple connections between the same hexagons. They should repeat this process until they have used all of the hexagons. If a group finishes very quickly, ask them to share a few of their connections with you – or ask them to take it apart and do it again differently. This challenges students to see the same ideas in a different way.

When students are finished, ask them to choose one hexagon and sketch it on a page. Have them share the hexagons that it touches and share the connections between them. You might also ask which hexagon was hardest to place and why. This may suggest more difficult concepts for further class discussion.

More on hexagonal thinking for classroom learning, <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/hexagonal-thinking/>.



**Oath of
Abjuration &
Allegiance**

Martin Black

Graham

Stewart

Contribution

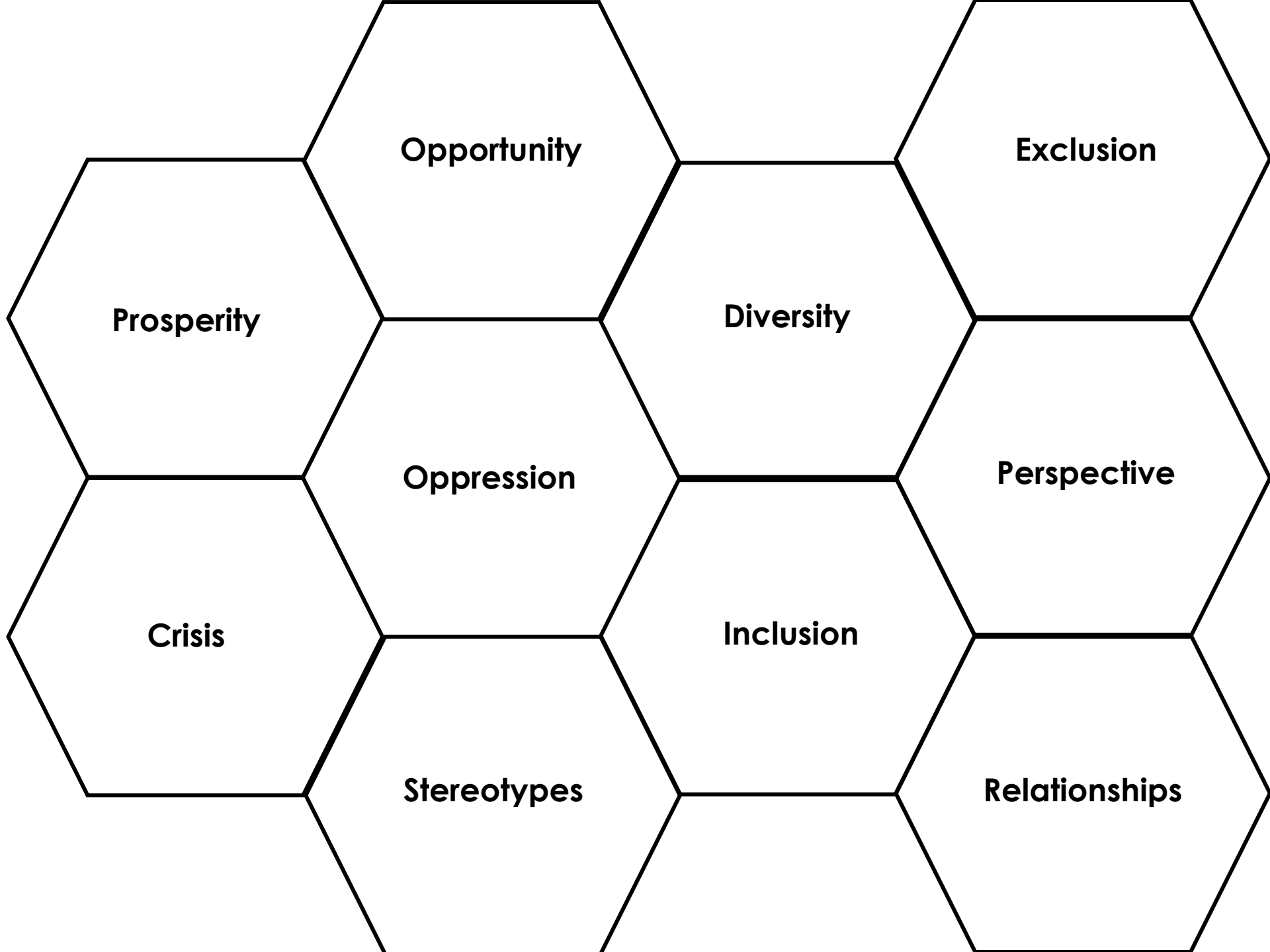
Loyalist

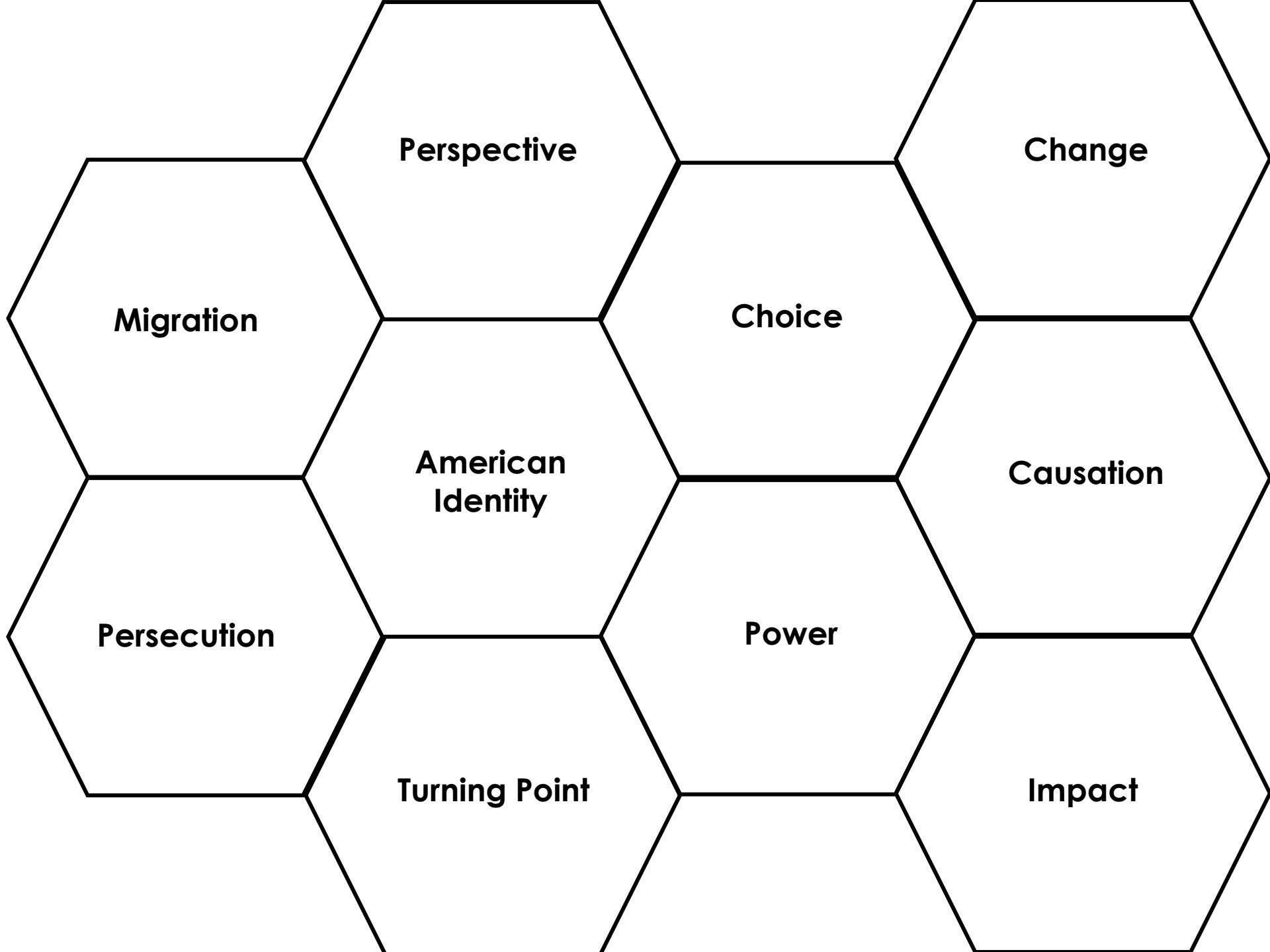
Lewellin

Fanning

Sacrifice

Patriot





Perspective

Change

Migration

Choice

**American
Identity**

Causation

Persecution

Power

Turning Point

Impact

