



## Lesson 6.8 We Need an Idea!

### Module #6: The Crunch

It's crunch time for freshmen – this is usually their first experience with midterm exams! They need study skills, test preparation strategies, and time management. They also need real testimonials and advice on the do's and don'ts of studying, getting schoolwork done, taking grades seriously, and setting goals to create a positive high school experience.

### Enduring Understandings

- I. **Academic success in high school requires the ability to properly study, research, take tests, manage time, and understand grading policies.**
- II. Never setting goals usually means never accomplishing them – it is important to set short-term and long-term goals to aim for high school success.

### Essential Questions

- I. **What study skills, research guidelines, time management strategies, and test-taking skills will help me be more academically successful?** (I)
- II. What are effective short-term and long-term goals? (II)
- III. What is a grade point average and how do I calculate it? (I)

### Lesson Objective(s)

Students will learn and practice brainstorming strategies to develop ideas for a project/assignment.

Lesson 6.6

Lesson 6.7

**Lesson 6.8**

Lesson 6.9

Lesson 6.10

### Directions:

1. Prior to conducting the lesson, each student leader should develop an idea for freshmen to brainstorm (something like a theme for a dance, a topic for a persuasive speech, a field trip to take, etc.)
2. Begin the lesson by explaining to the freshmen that working in groups and collaborating on projects and assignments is just a normal part of high school. And sometimes the most difficult part is coming up with a great idea. This is where brainstorming comes in.
  - **Brainstorming:** A process for generating ideas and solutions in a group.
3. Divide the class into smaller groups so that each student leader has a group of freshmen to work with. Give each small group a "Brainstorm Strategy" card. The student leader should then give his/her group the idea that they need to brainstorm.
4. Each group should use the strategy they have been given to brainstorm the idea. Once complete, prepare to teach the strategy to the whole class and share the idea they came up with.
5. Have each small group explain the brainstorming strategy they used and the idea they developed as a group.

### Materials & Supplies

- "Brainstorm Strategy" Cards

Focus  
Point

Working in groups and collaborating is part of the high school experience. Sometimes coming up with a good idea for a project or an assignment can be tough. But, using effective brainstorming strategies can make the process much easier.

- If you have extra time, rotate through the brainstorming strategies so that students have the opportunity to practice with more than one and can discuss the one they like the best and why.

Resources  
&  
Extension

# BRAIN WRITING

The general principle of this technique is to separate idea generation from discussion.



The team leader shares the topic with the team, and team members individually write down their ideas. This helps eliminate the anchoring bias and encourages everyone on the team to share their own ideas. It also gives everyone more time to think over their ideas, which is especially helpful for your introverted participants. This brainstorming technique works best for teams who seem to be greatly influenced by the first ideas presented during a meeting.

When your team is brainstorming ideas individually, away from distraction and public opinion, you generate concepts that may not naturally surface in a larger setting. Individual brainstorming techniques like this will often give you more unique ideas than when the group comes up with topic ideas together.

SOURCE: WWW.WRIKE.COM

# FIGURE STORMING

Ever consider how someone else might handle the situation? Or what they might say about a particular topic? With [figuring storming](#), you aim to do just that.



Think about how someone like your boss, a famous celebrity, or even the president of the United States might handle the situation. Putting yourself in new shoes can give the team a different perspective, helping them see the possibilities from fresh ideas. This technique works best for teams who find themselves coming across the same ideas for repetitive projects.

Try the simple question: **What would Abraham Lincoln do?** When you brainstorm questions that revolve around the possible actions of a third party, you free up ideas that aren't limited to your participants. It's one of those exercises for teams that gives everyone a different viewpoint.

SOURCE: WWW.WRIKE.COM

# RAPID IDEATION

Sometimes, time limitations can help generate ideas quickly, because you don't have time to filter or overthink each one.



With this technique, the team leader provides context beforehand with information or questions on the topic, budget, deadline, etc. Then, a time limit is set for individuals to write down as many thoughts or ideas around the topic as possible, using any mediums available. Participants should not worry about filtering their ideas.

The great part about this style of brainstorming is that it's completely customizable to meet the needs of the team and project. Several different mediums can be used, such as pen and paper, white boards, Post-Its... anything to get the creative juices flowing. The time limit for your rapid ideation session can be anywhere from five to 45 minutes, depending on the complexity of your topic. This technique is good for teams who tend to get sidetracked, teams who hate meetings, or for placing a time limit on brainstorming sessions that frequently last longer than expected.

SOURCE: WWW.WRIKE.COM

# ROUND ROBIN

Teams form a circle to kick off this method. Once the topic is shared, go around the circle one-by-one and have each person offer an idea until everyone has had a turn.



Simultaneously, a facilitator records all ideas so they can be discussed once the sharing is over. It's very important to not evaluate any ideas until everyone has the opportunity to share. This technique is good when some of your team members have a tendency to stay quiet throughout meetings.

When leading a session, the round robin method of brainstorming allows everyone to pitch in and contribute. Just make sure to treat each idea with equal weight. And try to discourage people from saying "X already mentioned my idea." If this does happen, say you'll return to them at the end so they have time to think of something new.

SOURCE: WWW.WRIKE.COM

# STARBURSTING



This form of brainstorming focuses on forming questions rather than answers. Starbursting challenges the team to come up with as many questions as they can about your topic.

An easy way to begin a session like this would be to start listing questions that deal with the who, what, where, when, and why. This style assures that all aspects of the project are addressed before any work goes into executing it. It's a good technique for teams who tend to overlook certain aspects of a project and end up rushing to get things done last minute.

SOURCE: WWW.WRIKE.COM

# STEPLADDER



The session begins with the facilitator sharing the topic or question with the whole team.

Once the topic is shared, everyone leaves the room except two members of the team. These two members will then discuss the topic and their ideas. Then, one additional member is added to the group. This new member will contribute his or her ideas BEFORE the other two discuss theirs.

Repeat this cycle until everyone from the original group is in the room. This technique prevents groupthink in teams where one or two members hold sway over everyone else. This also helps encourage the shy folks in the group to share their ideas without feeling intimidated by a room full of people.

SOURCE: WWW.WRIKE.COM