

Brainstorming

LOTS AND LOTS of answers – fluency!

Quantity over Quality

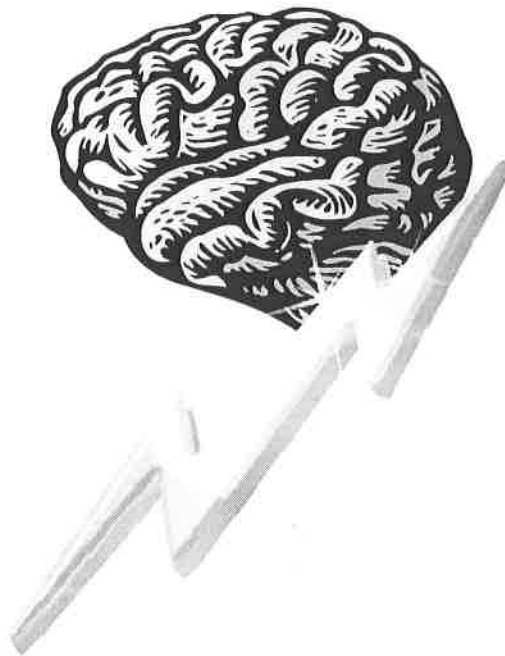
No evaluation of responses; positive or negative – it thwarts the flow of the ideas.

Hitchhiking/Piggybacking is encouraged

Avoid Tunnel Vision

Novel, strange and original ideas are grand.

Don't quit too soon.



Fluency

Generating a Large Number of Ideas

Activities for practicing Fluency:

How many ways can you use a tin can (insert any object here.)

Think of the number of ways you can sit on a chair (wear your shoe, do your hair, catch a fish, play a guitar, etc.)

How many tasks can you accomplish with a piece of string (a piece of foil, a handful of nails, a nail file, etc.)

List all the ways you can come to school.

List inventions found in the kitchen (insert any location or career here).

List inventions that are round (red, make a noise, deliver a scent, etc.)

Think of all the sounds on your way to school (in the grocery store, at the mall, in your bedroom, etc).

Name all the jobs that work with animals (children, food, clothing, etc.)

List things that are beautiful.

List the needs of a baby (elderly, ill, animals, our planet, etc.)

Name the groups a person can belong to.

Brainstorm all the ways to arrange items.

The idea here is to list LOTS and LOTS of ideas. When practicing FLUENCY, make sure not to stop and criticize any idea, it stops the brainstorming flow.

Flexibility

The Ability to Think in Many Different Directions

Activities for practicing Flexibility:

Beside anything edible, what else is round?

Name all the places you see numbers. Try not to duplicate.

Besides being seated, how else can you ride a bicycle?

Besides a pencil or pen, how else can you write?

How many different ways can you make life more pleasant for others?

Name the versions of Monopoly – real or imagined.

What can you put between 2 slices of bread and call it a sandwich?

If that answer was 8, what was the question?

What else is HOT besides the sun?

List all the different methods of communicating.

How are a clothespin and a stapler alike?

How are you like a (insert anything here).

List all the different uses for a (insert any object here).

***The idea here is to make each answer DIFFERENT from the last.
Stretch your brain to consider new CATEGORIES.***

Originality

Finding that ONE UNIQUE answer, solution, invention.

Activities for practicing Originality:

Invent a machine for grading (making your bed, delivering packages, etc.)

Invent the world's greatest pencil (roller coaster, pair of glasses, TV, etc.)

Develop a ball that doesn't roll.

Design a new home.

Create a new species of animal.

Imagine a world without any schools.

Design a new candy bar.

Compose a new song.

Invent a new way to communicate (trade, cook, travel, etc.)

What if you were adopted by eagles?

Originate a new career.

Project what education will look like in 2050.

What if fish had feathers? What if we lived underwater?

The idea here is to have an answer DIFFERENT from everyone else.

Use words like create, invent, develop, design, imagine.

Elaboration

Adding details to your thinking, solution, invention, etc.

Activities for practicing Elaboration:

What would you add to a “big wheels” trike to make it better? (insert any object here)

How would you add a motor to a see saw?

How could you make the game of tether ball more interesting?

Expand this sentence, “Children think... but adults think...”

Write a number. Now, make it into a person.

Write your first name. Now turn it into a car.

How does a blender REALLY work? (insert any object here)

What can you invent to make chores more fun?

Think of something really ugly... how can you make it beautiful?

Think of something really boring... how can you make it entertaining?

Design a new home for a squirrel (a perfect park, a new family friendly car, etc.)

Create a new character for Sesame Street.

The idea here is to have add details, to make it fancy.

Elaboration is also IMPROVING an existing idea.

Using Initials as a Brainstorming Technique

#1. Put initials on the board.

#2. Participants have 1 minute to come up with as many answers as they can for what the initials could mean.

#3. Participants go over the list and elaborate on their answers. Elaborating on their answers will turn their answers into inventions.

P.U.G.S.

Picking Up Grocery Supplies

Panicking Under Garbage Stacks

People Undergoing Growth Spurts

Plants Using Gross Slime

Picking Up Grocery Supplies = A scanner at the entrances of grocery stores. You scan your shopping list and a map is printed out of where in the store your items are located. A fastest route map.

Panicking Under Garbage Stacks – An invention that sorts out the “To-Do” list piles. Takes your list and organized from what needs to get done right away to what can be put off. Order of priority list.

D.U.C.K.

D.U.C.K. = Digging Under Cement Cracks = A super glue substance dispense that fits under cement. You find a crack, insert the invention, and super glue is squirted into the crack.

Dogs Usually Chase Kittens – A new dog toy that.....

Dirty Ugly Cabinet Kitchens – A technique to make old cabinets new by.....

Don't Usually Cook Ketchup – A new burnt flavored condiment