What is it?

**Brainstorming** is listing as many ideas as possible about a topic. It allows you to discover what you already know. You can brainstorm on your own or with others.

How does it work?

Ask students to write down any ideas about a particular topic/issue/problem. They can list single words, write in point form, or use diagrams or images. Using sticky notes allows students to move the ideas around and put them into themes.

Why use it?

Brainstorming with a partner or in a small group is a good way to share ideas. Everyone’s ideas are important and it is critical that all ideas - however different they are - are included. When you brainstorm, it is important to feel free to record all your ideas. This exercise can be used in conjunction with ‘bundling’ too so that concepts or themes are developed first before the random brainstorming.

How can it be used?

- To imagine connections to a topic
- To brainstorm ideas about developing an idea/presentation/project
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Resources

- Paper, pens
- Whiteboard, whiteboard markers
- Sticky notes for ‘bundling’ into themes

Online: Brainstorming tool visit [http://www.creativity-project.net/mapping.php](http://www.creativity-project.net/mapping.php)

Padlet.com - this software allows students to put up sticky notes related to a topic and can be good for brainstorming - especially for online classes. These notes can also be moved around or bundled by theme. This can be done both individually or as a group.

http://rmit.libguides.com/newlearningspaces