Brainstorm

Brainstorm is a process encouraging students to **generate ideas** in a **creative** manner.

It gives students a chance to tap into **previous knowledge** and **form connections** with the current topic.

- Carefully frame the question that needs to be brainstormed so that maximum ideas may be generated.
- Set a realistic time limit, around 10/15 minutes.
- Emphasise that there are no right or wrong answers to encourage students to contribute.
- Students either work individually, in pairs or in groups.
- The teacher coordinates and manages the brainstorming session without adding their evaluation to comments presented by the students.

Tips

- Students working together in groups produce lots of ideas. Ensure all students get an equal opportunity to share.
- An alternative approach is called the "Pie Method." Draw a circle and put the topic in the centre. Divide the circle into 4 or 5 parts, each representing a sub-topic. Students brainstorm on each sub-topic.
- Another alternative is the "Card Method." Students write their ideas on a card and then pass it to their right. The next students reads the ideas and then adds to it. The cards are passed around the class so each student can contribute.
- Brainstorming could be used as a stimulus for creative or functional writing, vocabulary development on a topic in languages or for relevance of a scientific discovery in our lives etc.
- An alternative approach to this strategy would be doing it online, see strategy on Padlet.

Key Skills

- ▶ Managing information and thinking
- ▶ Managing myself
- ▶ Communicating
- ▶ Being literate
- ▶ Being creative

Resources
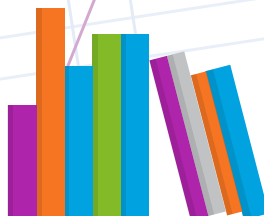
- ▶ Whiteboard
- ▶ Marker

Room Layout

If using group work, arrange students in **groups of 2 or 4**

Assessment

The teacher observes and listens to stubent responses to the question in hand

Supporting Homework

Homework can be informed by the variety of responses generated from this activity

An tSraith Shóisearach do Mhúinteoirí

Junior CYCLE for teachers