



List of 10 Brainstorming

Teacher Guide

Learning Objectives:

- I can brainstorm ideas for writing based on my personal interests.

Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills (TEKS)

Grade	TEKS
6th, 7th, and 8th Grade	10(A) plan a first draft by selecting a genre appropriate for a particular topic, purpose, and audience using a range of strategies such as discussion, background reading, and personal interests
English I, English II, English III, English IV	9(A) plan a piece of writing appropriate for various purposes and audiences by generating ideas through a range of strategies such as brainstorming, journaling, reading, or discussing

Instructions:

This activity allows students to draw on their personal interests to brainstorm ideas. Students sometimes try to claim they have “nothing” to write about, but that’s simply not true! This is a low stakes way to get students generating ideas and learning that ANYthing can spark writing.

You can have students complete their brainstorming on plain notebook paper, or you have them use the student handout. I have created the student handout as an editable PDF so students can type directly on it and then save their ideas, or you can print it out for them. Below I’ve provided instructions for each option.

Student Handout Instructions

1. Print copies of the student handout, or give them electronic access to it.
2. Tell students that they are going to be QUICKLY brainstorming 10 things that they like—don’t overthink it, anything they like will work!
3. Set a timer for their brainstorming to keep it moving. Once time is up, have students examine their list. Ask them, “Did your more interesting ideas come at the beginning of the list, in the middle, or near the end?” and have a brief discussion on that. (Usually they come near the end, when they’re used up all the obvious ideas.)
4. Have them write a little about one item from their list in the box on the bottom of the page. You can allow them to choose which one to write about, or you can pick a number between 1-10 and have everyone write about what they put on that number.

Notebook Paper Instructions

1. Have each student get a clean sheet of notebook paper. Then, tell them to go ahead and number 1-10 so they can visually see their brainstorming goal to get to 10.
2. Tell students that they are going to be QUICKLY brainstorming 10 things that they like—don’t overthink it, anything they like will work!
3. Set a timer for their brainstorming to keep it moving. Once time is up, have students examine their list. Ask them, “Did your more interesting ideas come at the beginning of the list, in the middle, or near the end?” and have a brief discussion on that. (Usually they come near the end, when they’re used up all the obvious ideas.)
4. Have them write a little about one item from their list in the box on the bottom of the page. You can allow them to choose which one to write about, or you can pick a number between 1-10 and have everyone write about what they put on that number.

EXTENSION OPPORTUNITY: Have students use this as a jumping off point for a longer piece of writing. Help them explore which genre would be best for writing about their topic, then give them time create it.



List of 10 Brainstorming

Name:

Brainstorm a list of 10 things that you enjoy. Don't overthink it!

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

In the space below, write about one of the things on your brainstorm list. There is no right or wrong thing to write about—explain something about it, write something inspired by it—anything goes! Just be inspired by the topic!