

Travelling Brainstorm

This is a useful technique for a larger group to explore several questions or reflect on a number of statements within one session.

1. *Preparation.* Write one question or statement at the top of single sheets of chart paper. Have coloured markers available, a different colour for each group. (Alternatively, this activity can be done online as a Google Doc.)
2. Organize participants into smaller groups of three to six people. Each group has a specific colour of marker so it clear where each groups' list begins and ends.
3. Review the basic ground rules for brainstorming.
 - Everyone contributes.
 - Read the ideas already listed.
 - Work within the time limit (e.g., five to ten minutes per sheet)
4. On a signal, one group member takes the chart the next group. Establish a rotation pattern, such as clock-wise around the room or numbering the tables. (Alternatively, the chart could remain at the table and the group members could move to the next table.)
5. Read the questions or statements aloud as you distribute one chart paper to each group.
6. At the signal, groups begin discussing the question or statement, and then use their coloured markers to record their reflections on the chart paper.
7. At the end of the designated time limit, sound the signal for finishing discussion and recording ideas.
8. Each group then passes on their paper to the next group and begins work on the new sheet delivered to their group. One member quickly reads the previously recorded ideas aloud and members can add to or write comments on other groups' ideas, as well as adding their own ideas.
9. *Wrap-up.* Each groups posts their chart paper on the wall. Participants could review the ideas in a gallery walk, or one member from each group could provide a two-minute summary of the ideas from the last chart they worked on.