Brainstorming is an activity that stimulates the mind and produces multiple ideas around the topic. There are many variations to brainstorming activities. The brainstorm web provides the adult learner with a framework to brainstorm around a central topic. After an initial opportunity for individuals to complete the brainstorm web, they may visit with another person to share ideas and learn from one another.

Adult Learning Stage: Pre-Learning Warm-Up Activity or Post-Learning Wrap-up

Goal(s):
Set the adult learner’s mind to the day’s topic.
Stimulate group discussion.
Summarize key points from the day’s learning.

Prep: For use as a pre-learning activity, workshop facilitator must provide a blank Brainstorm Web (below) with a focal point located in the center of the web. For a post-learning activity, the same web diagram below can be used. One Brainstorm Web page for each participant is to be run off prior to the meeting/workshop time.

Directions (pre-learning):
1. Provide each participant with a copy of the brainstorming web with the predetermined topic located in the center of the web.
2. Instruct participants that they will be given approximately 2 minutes to fill in the web circles around the topic.
3. Tell participants that they will be given a cue after two minutes has been completed, and at that time they’re to seek a partner and share their completed web and why they connected those words with the day’s topic.
4. After approximately 5 minutes, the facilitator will call the participants back and introduce the day’s primary learning activity.

Directions (post-learning):
1. Provide each participant with a copy of the Brainstorming Web that includes the main topic from today’s learning activity in the center.
2. Tell participants that they will have approximately 3 minutes to fill in the ovals around the web as related to what they have learned today.
3. Have individuals connect partner to review their completed webs and discuss each of the completed ovals.
4. After approximately 5 minutes, the facilitator will call the participants back and seek 2 to 4 participants that would like to report out.