

Brainstorm Topics List

Use these questions, problems, and scenarios when teaching the lessons on idea generation and for other lessons/times when you want students to focus on a topic or problem.

Please note that they are merely suggestions-don't feel bound to use them! It's always best to work with problems that are meaningful for your students and that relate to their interests and community so feel free to use other topics as you see fit.

Quick Brainstorming Questions/Problems

The topics below require very little context and can be used with any brainstorming technique.

1. How could we make pigs fly?
2. How could we get our books/laptop to school without having to carry them?
3. X has trouble getting to school on time and has been late 10 times already this semester. How could we help X to get to school on time?
4. X's grades have been falling this semester. How could we help X to improve their grades?
5. How can we improve the grades of every student in our school?
6. What ways can you think of to reduce the amount of wasted food at the school cafeteria?
7. Your band wants to increase the number of people coming to its gigs/concerts. What ideas do you have that could get more people to come?
8. A sandwich shop/cafe wants to increase the number of customers it gets in the afternoons; how could it do this?
9. You are on the committee of a local charity that hopes to raise \$1,000 before the end of the school year. What ideas can you come up with to raise the money?
10. A fast food chain wants to improve its image to parents of young children; how can they do this?
11. How can we help teenagers drive safely?
12. A big fire broke out in a nearby town and now your city's animal shelters are full of dogs and cats that were rescued. How can the animal shelter ensure that all these pets are adopted?
13. A local artist has received a grant to create a new art installation to celebrate the culture and history of the area. What ideas could help her create the new installation?
14. A local diner has developed healthier meals but they are not selling well; how can they get more people to buy them?

Local Issues

Use the local newspaper/news websites to find a current and locally relevant issue or problem for which students can brainstorm ideas and offer solutions.

World Issues

This list provides questions related to different issues that students may want to begin to explore through brainstorming.

Health Related Issues

1. How can we make sure all children are active and get enough exercise?
2. How can we make sure children eat healthy food?
3. How can we make sure that everyone in (your city/state/country) gets the healthcare they need?
4. There are many places in the world where people don't have access to high quality health information or health care because they live too far away from a health facility. How can we increase these peoples' access to healthcare?
5. People all over the world don't have access to clean drinking water. What can be done to change that?
6. Stress, depression, and anxiety are serious issues for teens. What can be done to bring more awareness to mental health issues?

Environmental Issues:

1. What can we do to get people to reduce their energy consumption in the home/in school/at work?
2. How can we reduce food waste at home/at school/in the local community?
3. How can we make the air in our city cleaner?
4. How do we reduce the use of plastic/how can we reuse and recycle plastic?
5. How can we solve the problem of global warming?

Education Issues:

1. There are many places in the world where children don't have access to schooling— either they live too far, aren't allowed to go, or their families don't have the money for clothing and supplies. How can education become accessible to everyone, even in the most remote regions?
2. How can we give children an education that is relevant for the future lives they will live?
3. What might the future of higher education look like? For example, will everyone need to attend college classes in person?
4. What technology could improve failing school systems?