

Needs analysis and phrases for group brainstorming review

Interview your partner and make notes in the gaps provided (for your teacher to read when they collect the completed forms). Please **ask full questions** and ask about **as much detail as possible**, but **only write brief notes (not full sentences)**. To provide equal practice for each of you, each person should ask two questions before switching roles (e.g. the last question that their partner asked, then one new one).

Information
Name of interviewee
Education/ Studies (English and other things – present, past and future)
Work (present, past and future)
Hobbies/ Interests (academic and non-academic)
Ideas/ Opinions
At least three topics that you might be interested in giving your final presentation on (a five to seven minute joint presentation connected to current affairs – meaning news – or academic topics, in front of this group of people)
The best ways of preparing to give a presentation (= the stages of preparing and practising before giving a presentation)
The best ways to improve your English outside the classroom, especially for academic presentations and discussions (extra practice, self-study, access to good models, etc)

Brainstorm ideas for the last three boxes above, doing the first as a class and then the others in pairs.

Work together to brainstorm answers to one of the questions above, with the aim of coming up with between two and four good ideas, with a few examples of and/ or arguments for each thing.

Stage 1 – Asking for ideas (when brainstorming together)

Write down any ideas you can think of as a list or mind map, organising as you go along but not editing your ideas at this stage.

Useful phrases for asking for ideas when brainstorming

- “Can we write anything **else** here/ in this category?”
- “Any **more** ideas?”/ “I think we need three or four **more**.”
- “Let’s just get all our ideas down and discuss them **later**.”
- “That’s probably not true, but let’s write it down for now **anyway**.”

Stage 2 – Organising the ideas/ Putting the ideas into order/ Putting the ideas into categories

Try to group your ideas together, adding any more that come up as you are doing so.

Useful phrases for grouping ideas

- “I think these two are **linked** (to each other) by...”
- “We can put these **together** because...”
- “These are **similar** in terms of...”
- “There is a **connection** between these two in that...”
- “Maybe we should **move** this one over here”
- “What **category** can we put these in?”/ “What other things fit into this **category**?”
- “I think these two are **related**.”
- “These are both/ all **kinds** of...”
- “**Another** example of that is...”

Stage 3 – Editing down the ideas/ Choosing the best ideas/ Getting rid of weak ideas

Circle the best ideas and cross off the worst ones (individual ideas or whole categories), trying to get down to between two and four categories with between two and four examples of each.

Useful phrases for editing down your ideas

- “This one is probably **best** because...”
- “I’d **choose** this one because...”
- “This one doesn’t seem to **link** to any of the others.”
- “This one isn’t very **convincing**.”
- “This one doesn’t **fit** in with any of the others.”
- “These two are **too** similar.”
- “I think this is true, but I can’t **explain** why.”
- “Can I **cross** this one off?”/ “We can **cross** off this one because...”
- “I think we can **eliminate** this one because...”
- “This one doesn’t make **sense**.”
- “This one is a bit **weak**.”

Stage 4 – Adding support for your ideas

Add details to each of the things that you have chosen, changing your mind about what you will include if there are ideas which you can’t come up with enough good support for.

Useful phrases for adding support to your ideas

- “A good **example** of this is...”
- “The best **argument** for this is...”
- “The **proof** for this is...”
- “If they are not **convinced**, we can say that...”
- “We can **support** this one by saying...”
- “Someone **once** said...”
- “There’s a **proverb** which goes...”
- “In my **experience**,...”
- “I have **found** that...”

Stage 5 – Anticipating the other side’s counterarguments

How could someone argue against your ideas and how could you counter that? Brainstorm ideas to improve on your mind map above.

Useful phrases for anticipating counterarguments

- “If they say..., we can **argue** that...”/ “They might say..., but we can **argue** that...”
- “If they point out that..., the best **counterargument** is...”
- “If they notice the **weakness** in this argument, we can say...”
- “If I was them, I’d say...”

Change pairs and try to persuade your new partner(s) that your ideas would be better than their ideas.

Without looking back at the previous page, brainstorm at least three phrases to do each of these things. Phrases which weren't on the previous page which also have the same function are good too.

Stage 1 – Asking for ideas (when brainstorming together)

Stage 2 – Organising the ideas/ Putting the ideas into order/ Putting the ideas into categories

Stage 3 – Editing down the ideas/ Choosing the best ideas/ Getting rid of weak ideas

Stage 4 – Adding support for your ideas

Stage 5 – Anticipating the other side's counterarguments

Use these keywords to help with the previous task.

Stage 1 – Asking for ideas (when brainstorming together)

else
more
later
anyway

Stage 2 – Organising the ideas/ Putting them into order/ categories

linked
together
similar
connection
move
category
related
kinds
another

Stage 3 – Editing down the ideas/ Choosing the best ideas/ Getting rid of weak ideas

best
choose
link
convincing
fit
too
explain
cross
eliminate
sense
weak

Stage 4 – Adding support for your ideas

example
argument
proof
convinced
support
once
proverb
experience
found

Stage 5 – Anticipating the other side's counterarguments

argue
counterargument
weakness
I'd

Check your answers with the first brainstorming worksheet, then test each other in pairs:

- Read out a phrase with the word in bold missing then give hints until they guess.
- Read out just the key word and help your partner make the phrase.
- Read out just the category and help them come up with at least three suitable phrases.