



4-H Briefs

- Fun ideas to help members and families explore 4-H projects

Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Youth Development Brainstorming

FOCUS:

Communication- communicating effectively and clearly.

LEARNER OBJECTIVE:

Learning to brainstorm ideas.

BACKGROUND:

Brainstorming is the first step in the process of preparing a paper or presentation. A good way to start the process of choosing a topic is by brainstorming ideas. Brainstorming involves making a list of ideas related to a topic, a project, or a problem. Simply write down all the thoughts and ideas you have about a certain subject area.

Just remember to follow these rules when brainstorming:

1. Do not judge ideas.
2. It's okay to be far-out.
3. Think of as many ideas as you can.
4. Think about who your audience will be.

MATERIALS:

- Pencil
- Paper

PROCEDURE:

Now let's begin the process of choosing a topic for your research paper. For this exercise you will be considering subjects related to your 4-H club projects or a project that interests you. Let's start by answering the following questions:

What do I know about?

What interests me?

On a sheet of paper, list all the thoughts and ideas you have about one of the subjects you mentioned above. The more ideas you have the better your chances will be of finding a really great idea!

DISCOVERY:

Discuss the following with your group:

- What ideas did you think of that are of interest to you?
- Did you discover that there are actually many subjects you are interested in learning about?
- Why is it important to know who your audience will be before beginning the process of choosing a topic?

PIECING IT TOGETHER:

- When are some other times it might be helpful to use brainstorming to develop ideas?
- Is it easier to brainstorm ideas on a subject you are interested in? Why or why not?

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*Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, Oklahoma*