



EARTHE

Activity 2

Digital toolkit for innovative curriculum and methodological development

Module – Problem solving

Method - Guided Brainstorming



Module 4 – Problem Solving

Method 1 – Guided Brainstorming

Soft skill focus

This particular method can help educators encourage creative thinking, idea generation, and collaborative problem exploration in a structured manner.

Learning outcomes

By applying this method, participants will be able to:

- Generate a high volume of diverse ideas for solving complex problems.
- Build upon others' ideas to develop innovative solutions.
- Evaluate ideas for feasibility and relevance.
- Apply structured creativity techniques to real-world challenges.

Target group

Age – Adults (20+)

Gender – All genders

Level of studies – Variable (from vocational to postgraduate)

Status – Employed, unemployed, or in transition

Fewer opportunities – Possible inclusion of participants from various disadvantaged backgrounds.

Method description

Guided Brainstorming combines free idea generation with structured prompts and facilitation techniques. It helps groups move beyond obvious answers to more creative and unconventional solutions.

Implementation instructions

Timeline: 45–60 minutes



Co-funded by
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No. of participants: 6–20

Necessary materials: Whiteboard or flip chart, sticky notes, markers, guiding question list, timer.

Space: Classroom, meeting room, or online collaboration platform.

Implementation in 5 steps

Step 1 - Define the Problem

Present the problem clearly and set brainstorming rules (no criticism, build on others' ideas, encourage wild ideas).

Step 2 - Warm-Up Round

Use a quick creative exercise to loosen thinking (e.g., "List as many uses for a paperclip as you can").

Step 3 - Idea Generation with Prompts

Provide guiding questions or prompts (e.g., "How would a child solve this problem?", "What if we had unlimited resources?").

Step 4 - Cluster and Combine Ideas

Group similar ideas together and identify themes or patterns.

Step 5 - Select and Refine

Discuss top ideas and choose the most promising for further development

Practical tips

Tip 1 – Use time limits to maintain energy.

Tip 2 – Encourage equal participation by inviting quieter members to share.

Tip 3 – For online delivery, use digital sticky-note tools like Padlet or Miro.

Debriefing questions

Question 1 – Which prompts helped you think most creatively?

Question 2 – Were there any ideas you initially dismissed that became valuable?

Question 3 – How might you adapt this process to your own work context?



Practical description sheet

Title: Guided Brainstorming – Problem Solving

Purpose: To encouraging creative thinking, idea generation, and collaborative problem exploration in a structured manner.

Duration: 45–60 minutes

Format: Group work

Core Steps: Define the problem → Warm up → Generate ideas → Cluster and combine ideas → Select and refine ideas

Materials: Whiteboard or flip chart, sticky notes, markers, guiding question list, timer

Key Benefits: Encourages creative thinking, boosts collaboration and exchange