

Brainwriting

In this nonverbal brainstorming method, everyone writes down three ideas that relate to the topic of the brainstorm. Allow about four to six minutes for this process. Then everyone passes their ideas to the person on their right (or left, whichever you prefer), who will then build on top of the ideas, adding bullet points or creative strategies. After another few minutes, everyone will pass the piece of paper again until it makes it all the way around the table. Once the ideas have made it around the circle, the group discusses them and decides which ideas are best to pursue.

Rapid ideation

In rapid ideation, everyone writes down as many ideas as possible in a set amount of time (max. 4 minutes) before any ideas are discussed, critiqued, or fleshed out. For this brainstorming technique, you will need to set (and stick to) a time constraint, otherwise you'll risk losing the sense of urgency. After the 4 minutes lay out the ideas on the table. Then choose 1 idea you see yourself working on. If you still need more time to brainstorm you can choose one of the other brainstorm techniques (e.g. mind mapping) or go to another table.

Round-robin brainstorming

In a round-robin brainstorm, everyone at the table participates, contributing one idea to the brainstorm. The first rule is that the group must make it around the whole table at least once before anyone can contribute a second idea or criticize, elaborate on, or discuss any of the ideas. The second rule is that no one can say, “My idea was already said.” You can come back to that person at the end when they’ve had more time to think. If you need to you can take a few minutes before the brainstorm where everyone gets the chance to come up with an idea, they then present to the group.

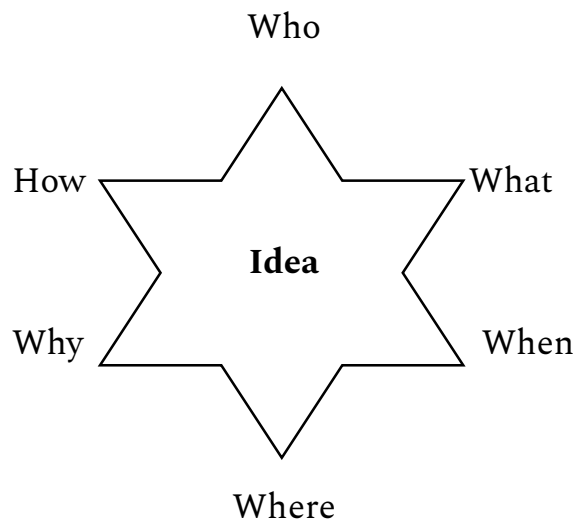
Mind mapping (for further development of ideas)

Sometimes, the first idea shared with the group isn’t the right idea, but it sparks three better ideas—that’s where mind mapping comes in. In this technique, the group starts with one idea and then draws lines connecting sub-ideas to the first one. Mind mapping is a visual way to approach brainstorms and can be helpful for those who think visually.

Star bursting (for further development of ideas)

Star bursting is a later-stage brainstorming technique that can be implemented when you have already selected an idea to elaborate upon and potentially execute.

In a starburst brainstorming session, you will start with the idea for a project or partnership at the center and then create a six-point star around it:



Each point represents a question: who, what, when, where, why, and how. For example, who is this project for? When do we want to execute our activity? What is our motivation for creating this project? Etc.