

Brain-sailing or Blue Sky Thinking

This is an easy and simple exercise, which can be used with groups of all ages and abilities. The greatest use is in introducing topics and issues and generating an initial interest in them before further, more detailed work is undertaken

An issue or question is defined and agreed. Members of the group, working together, are asked to put forward ideas, responses or possible solutions to the issue or question. These are recorded quickly on a flipchart. Encouragement should be given to the rapid generation of responses in order that steady streams of ideas develop. The session can be brought to an end when suggestions start to dry up.

- Suggestions should be accepted without comment
- Do not judge or evaluate suggestions
- All suggestions are of equal merit during the session
- One suggestion can be used to trigger others

- Flipchart,
- Pens
- Post-its

Invite smaller groups to work on the same brainstorming topic and compare their results; this may lead to more diverse suggestions.

