

Brainstorm Before Writing

Use fictional examples. Leave out diagnoses, medical information, names, passwords and contact details.

Learning goal: Organize ideas before spending effort on transcription.

Idea generation and recording can be separate steps. You do not need perfect sentences to begin. Build a map you can explain in your own way.

1. Choose a real or made-up learning situation. Leave out names, diagnoses and private details.
2. Explore the three activities. Choose supports that fit you; skip any that do not.
3. Write, type, draw, point, sign, use AAC or ask someone to scribe your own ideas.
4. Choose one next step and an adult who can help make it possible.

Grades 3–5 support: Use the prompts and examples, or explain your ideas in your own way. Ask for words, a scribe or one direction at a time.

Idea islands

Choose an interesting question, such as whether every playground should have a quiet area. Generate different ideas without editing.

My question and first idea

A different idea or possibility

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Connect the islands

Choose one idea to develop. Add a reason and an example before worrying about spelling.

Reason for my idea

Example, detail or counterexample

Optional deeper thinking · Grades 6–8

Organize claim, counterclaim and evidence before choosing a final communication format.

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Sentence bridge

Plan one sentence orally, with symbols or in text. Then choose how to record it.

Example, not an answer to copy: I think a quiet area belongs in a playground because some learners need a lower-noise place to recharge.

I think... because...

My recording tool and a clarity check

My next step

What will I try, and who can support it? Write, draw, dictate, sign or use AAC.

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Accessibility & alternative responses

Supply word banks on request, not as limits. Offer sentence starters, a scribe and speech-to-text without requiring handwriting.

Teacher facilitation

Model separate brainstorm, organize and transcribe phases. Do not correct mechanics during idea generation unless requested. Accept a spoken or symbol-based organizer.

Family-use suggestion

Invite the learner to choose what to share. Try one support together, ask what helped, and change the plan with their permission. Do not turn this sheet into a test or require private information.

Specialist formats

These printouts are not Braille. Embossed Braille and specialist tactile materials need qualified, technically validated production. The accessible digital version supplies structured text, not a specialist-format substitute.