

## **Brainstorming**

(adopted from Centent Area Reading by Vacca and Vacca)

### **Brainstorming:**

- ✓ Brainstorming allows students to explore and examine ideas quickly and in a more organized fashion, in order to prepare for writing.
- ✓ Helps students understand their purpose for their writing.
- ✓ Encourages students to get motivated for writing and helps begin involving them in the pre-writing process.

### **Description:**

- ✓ Brainstorming is a process that helps a student begin his/her ideas for writing a piece based on a topic, helps them identify their purpose, and helps organize their thoughts.

### **Targeted Reading Levels:**

- ✓ Early Childhood-College Level

### **Major Foci:**

- ✓ Motivation, Writing

### **Procedure:**

1. Present students with a dilemma or situation that requires thinking of prior knowledge and future applications.
2. Ask the students to either write their brainstormed ideas down on a piece of paper for the next steps in the writing process or to share them with the class as the teacher writes them on the board for all to see.
3. The teacher should call out 'stop'- but allow one more minute of thinking. This is because sometimes more creative ideas come to mind when under pressure.
4. The ideas formed on the board or on their personal pieces of paper can help them to begin writing and forming additional ideas.

### **Alternate Ideas:**

1. Divide class into small groups of 2-3 people.
2. Instruct each group member to individually write ideas on their own sheet of paper.
3. Have each student put their ideas in the middle of the group and get another person's paper.
4. Have the students add on ideas to the other student's ideas.
5. Have the group combine ideas to form one group list to share with the class.