

## ABC Brainstorming

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The ABC Brainstorming strategy can be used to elicit information before a lesson or before writing.

#### Introduction, Modeling, and Reflection

1. Ask students to write the alphabet down the left side of a sheet of notebook paper. Before reading or listening, provide the topic and ask students (alone or with a partner) to brainstorm their background knowledge relating to the topic that begins with each specific letter.
2. Students can be assigned certain letters or can brainstorm ideas for the entire alphabet.
3. After reading or listening, ask students to return to their ABC Brainstorming. What can they now add? What can they verify as correct information?
4. ABC Brainstorming also works well as a pre-writing tool. Once writers have listed what they know, they can begin to organize their ideas for writing.

#### Support and Extensions

- Students can also use ABC Brainstorming as a during—and after—reading strategy. Kathy Kerby had her literature students work in dyads to develop ABC charts about Christopher Boone, the main character in the book, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*.

Alibi	Bus 	Cow 	Driving Mother's Car	Ed Boone his father
Faces 	Groans A lot	<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time</i>	Hitting People	Intelligence is normal
Judy Boone his mother	Knows something!	 Christopher Boone	Love's Math $\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ +\frac{4}{8} \\ \hline 8 \end{array}$ $\begin{array}{r} (2+8) \\ \hline 2 \end{array}$	Mrs. Alexander tried to help Christopher
Neighborhood 	Organized		Patterns 	Q? Who killed? ? the dog? ?
Refusing to use his toothbrush if anyone had touched it.	Screaming or smashing things when angry		Teacher 	Understands everything
Victory over autism.	Wellington the dog	X(e)cellent teacher	Y Hates Yellow + Brown things	Zoo 

Classroom ideas