



YOUTH BRAINSTORMING SESSIONS

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Hear from youth in
your program in a
meaningful way!

Ideal group size:
6 to 10 Youth

If you are scheduling
multiple brainstorming
groups, consider grouping
youth by gender, English
language learners, or grade
level.

If possible, choose a near peer
facilitator (high school or
college aged staff member).
If no high school or college
aged staff are available, choose
a staff member with strong
relationships with students.

Choose participants who:

- are eager and productive participants;
- who can draw, write, or dictate their ideas to an adult;
- are representative of the demographics of their community (gender, ethnicity, ableness, etc.)

The session will take
approximately **45-60 minutes**.

Schedule a place to hold the session
such as a classroom with chairs and
tables for students to place their
brainstorming sheets and write.

You will need:

- Copies of youth brainstorming sheets (copied on 11 x 17" paper), 1 copy for each youth
- Copy of facilitation guide
- Pencils or colored pencils



FACILITATOR GUIDE:

Follow the scripted prompts in grey bubbles.

1

Thank you for being a part of this brainstorming session. We want to hear your ideas about things you have done in afterschool and things you would be interested in doing after school or during a summer program in the future! Do you have any questions?

Answer any questions about the process.
Pass out the Brainstorming sheets.

2

Let's take a couple of minutes to look at the drawings on your brainstorming sheet. These drawings are there to help you remember activities you have participated in in the past, or think about activities you might like to participate in during summer or afterschool time in the future.

To start, think about some of the best times you've had during summer or afterschool programs in the past. If you can think of your favorite one, two, or three clubs, activities, or programs that you have really liked in the past, write those in the box at the top of the sheet, where it says "Top 3." Write one idea on each line.

Take a few minutes to help youth think of past experiences. Pause while the youth write. It is OK for you to write answers for them if they ask you to or are struggling to write.

3

Now we would like you to share your favorite clubs or activities with the person sitting next to you. Each of you should take turns sharing what you wrote down. We will take about five minutes to share.

Note: Youth should share with the person next to them rather than move around the room. This part shouldn't take too long.

4

Now we're going to take a close look at the drawings on the sheet. We are going to do this step on our own, not with a partner.

Each bubble with a drawing in it is a theme for clubs or activities. Next to each bubble is a thermometer with the numbers zero, five, and ten. We would like you to fill in the thermometer up to the number that shows how interested you are in participating in a club with that theme. Zero means you are not at all interested and wouldn't sign up for a club with that theme. A five means you're kind of interested. A ten means you really want to explore that theme and would definitely sign up for a club with that theme. Please go ahead and fill in each thermometer based on your interests. Are there any questions?

Give youth several minutes to complete this step. Answer any questions students might have about the drawings, the words attached or what they are supposed to do.

5

Now, you are going to fill in the empty bubbles at the bottom of the sheet. In the four empty bubbles, we would like you to draw or write in themes we haven't thought of. What are YOU interested in? Is there anything you would like to learn about or get more information about? Is there something you want to explore but you can't on your own? Use this as an opportunity to let adults know what you want to do during your afterschool or summertime.

Draw or write one idea per bubble. If you have more ideas and need more bubbles, you can use the white space on the sheet to make more bubbles.

Give youth plenty of time for this step. They may need assistance with brainstorming. It's OK if they brainstorm with their peers, but we want to encourage them to write down their own ideas. Encourage youth to think outside the box!