Instructor Guide for
Brainstorming

(SPARK >> Getting Started >> Choosing a Topic)

NOTE: This resource is good to use as an opening exercise for choosing a topic, followed by the "Nutshelling" and "Plus, Minus Interesting (PMI)" resources. This resource is also similar to the Mind Mapping and Concept Mapping resources and could be used as a prelude to them.

Skills Addressed
- generating ideas, questions, and connections
- foregoing premature closure

Suggested Uses
☑ **Independent student use**: Ask/suggest that students read resource on their own and decide for themselves when/ if/ how they will use resource

☑ **Instructor-led Discussion**: Devote lecture/ tutorial time to describing the resource, its purposes and uses, and/or incorporate description and use of resource into broader discussion focusing on building the skills the resource targets

☑ **Small Group Discussion**: Use to stimulate informal class/ tutorial discussion, and/or small group discussion

Feedback / Evaluation Options
☑ **Personal reflection and/or self-assessment**

☑ **Informally, in small group discussion**: Assign to students to complete for sharing and discussion in small groups

☐ **Peer Evaluation:** Assign to students to complete independently, for more formal peer evaluation

☐ **Instructor Evaluation:** Assign to students to complete independently, or as one stage of a larger assignment, and hand in for formal instructor evaluation

☑ **Tracking Completion without Evaluating:** Assign to students to complete resource independently (on an ongoing basis, or at specific, appropriate times during the course), then hand in to instructor to track completion without assigning a specific grade to any individual completed resource

Potential Customization
The general idea of Brainstorming is suitable for many aspects of the research and writing process. The questions in the resource could be adapted for specific uses (e.g., determining what to include in a specific paragraph or considering alternate keywords for a search strategy).