**ABC Brainstorm**  
Before having your students talk about a major topic, it's essential to activate their background knowledge about it. Students try to think of a word or phrase associated with the topic, matched to each letter of the alphabet.

**Procedure**

1)Have students list all the letters of the alphabet down a sheet of paper (or use the graphic organizer below) leaving room beside each letter to write out the rest of a word or phrase. Let them work individually at first, thinking of as many words as they can that could be associated with the topic you identify. ***Do note: The topic should be big and general enough that students can actually think of a lot of possible terms.***

2) Then, in no particular order, let them begin filling in the blanks beside each letter of the alphabet. For instance, if the topic were **World War II**, students might list **A**llies, **B**ombers, **C**oncentration Camps, **D**achau, **E**urope, **F**rench Resistance, **G**ermany, **H**itler, **I**taly, **J**apan, and so on.

3)It seems to work well if you give students enough time to think of a lot of ideas, but then let them pair up or work in small groups to fill in blanks for letters they had not yet completed. In this way, you can let the brainstorming function like a Think-Pair-Share. This would be the "Pair" phase. Then, go around the room or get students to report out ("Share") possible terms for the different letters of the alphabet. Be open to a wide range of possibilities! Make sure students know that you're not looking for exact answers, just justifiable and relevant ones.

**What Variations Are There?**

Another variation of ABC Brainstorm involves turning the topic on its side, and writing the letters of the topic down in the same was a name poem or an acrostic. Students then brainstorm a word or phrase associated with the topic, one for each letter of the topic starting with each letter of the topic. For example, if the topic were COMPETITION in Economics, students might think of: Compete, Options, Monopoly, Perfect, Economy, Trade, Imperfect, TV ads, Inside information, Oligopoly, Natural.

Source: readingquest.org

Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

ABC BRAINSTORM

TOPIC

A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ N\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ O\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

C\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

D\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Q\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ R\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

F\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

G\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ T\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

H\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ U\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ V\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

J\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ W\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

K\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

L\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Z\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

M\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

SUMMARY PARAGRAPH:

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