

# Minnesota Writing Project

## --- Demonstration Lesson Template ---

**Title of lesson:** Active Brainstorming

**Suggested grade/age:** 7-12

**Approximate time needed to complete lesson:** 2 days

**Learning objective(s) and significance of lesson:**

(Why is this lesson important in the development of your students' skills or knowledge? What do you want students to learn or be able to do? What "best practice" does this lesson incorporate?)

To create/brainstorm a meaningful research question that will allow students to examine a part of their inheritance, while also building community through discussion, movement and performance.

**Brief summary/outline of lesson:**

(What steps do you take to implement this lesson in your classroom? Where is this lesson located in the school year or unit—beginning, middle, end? Does this lesson scaffold or build to a culminating assessment or demonstration of learning?)

1. Inheritance:  
What does this word mean? Write down as fast as you can the first ten words you think of when you think of this word?
2. Quickwrite: Series of questions to think about culture, family, community and inheritance:
  - a. What does your family celebrate?
  - b. Where are all the places that your family is from?
  - c. What does your family like to eat?
  - d. What music do you or members of your family listen to?
  - e. What do you or does your family like to do?
  - f. Name people from history that serve as inspiration for you or your family.
  - g. What events in history affect you or your family?
  - h. If you consider yourself spiritual or religious, what are things from this that make you who you are?
  - i. What traditions do you observe?
3. Choose one idea and turn into a sentence or two starting with:  
I have inherited.....
4. Snowball fight
5. Circle up and share with large group
6. Freewrite-Try to explode your moment or if someone else has made you think of something else you may want to write about then write about that. Is there a story about your inheritance? Can you describe it? Can you explain it? Think about what about our inheritance you might not know yet? Write down anything you wish you knew more about.
7. Human atom with a line from your freewrite that explains your idea.
  
8. Physicalize idea-Walking around the space I want you to think of a physical way you could place your body to communicate what you've inherited. Can be literal or abstract?

9. Partner up and share sculpture-End up in group of 4. Share sculptures-and share what the line or what you've inherited. Try to put all your sculptures together to create one big tableau.

10. Large Group Share

11. **SHIFTING THE PURPOSE--Gallaher**

Go back to your quiet spot and look at what you've written. Is there something in this that you don't know that much about? Is there something that you could potentially research? Make a list of possible ideas you may want to know more about.

**Related Resources:**

(What technology, articles, books, or supplies do you recommend?)

Piece of paper from recycling bin

Pen

Journal

**Possible extensions or adaptations for different purposes/student needs:**

Students should be constantly reminded when they will be sharing and also given the opportunity to not share if they feel uncomfortable.

For additional information, contact:

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