

Lotus Diagram



Definition

A tool to expand thinking around a single topic. The expansion may include types, categories, details, or questions around a theme. It is a simple, effective way to organize the output around Brainstorming.

Utility

The Lotus is a good choice to organize the output of our Brainstorming around any central theme. An example might be: Theme—State Reports; Brainstorming—"What questions should we answer as part of our state reports?"

Construction

1. Identify the central topic or theme the group is to deal with.
2. Ask for the type of expansion you would like the group to make. (Example: Egypt—What do you know about the land? . . . the history? . . . the people/culture? . . . the economy?) (Example: Red—What things in your home or our classroom are red?)
3. Record or ask the group to record the responses in the blocks around the Lotus. You may use a Lotus form, or simply fold a piece of paper into thirds both length-wise and width-wise.
4. If you wish, expand your nine-block Lotus to an 81-block Lotus.
5. Discuss the Lotus and use it for its intended purpose.

