



Teacher's Toolbox

Tool 13: Brainstorm, Group, Label

Class:

Unit:

Date:

Source Reading:

Use this tool:

- ▶ Pre-reading
- While reading
- Post-reading

This tool will help my students:

- ▶ Define
- Summarize
- Compare

How to use this tool:

This tool causes the learner to connect new vocabulary with prior knowledge. It allows student to brainstorm their own explanations of terms before turning to the dictionary. It provides a structure to connect students with what they already know and build independent learning skills.

1. Give students a new term. Focus on essential and complex terms rather than single dimensional terms or words.
2. Invite students to brainstorm all the words they can associate with the term.
3. Supply them with sticky notes or small cards and ask them to put one associated idea on each card
4. Let them work in small teams to first group the cards into like categories.
5. Then ask them to assign a label to each category.
6. As a large group compare labels/ categories and extract essential information about the term. Compare their understanding of the word to the dictionary definition

Example:

Term:	Associative terms:		Possible categories
nutrition	Healthy Food Vitamins Minerals Diet Energy Sugar	Illness Vegetables Fruits Calcium Milk Body functions Fats	Food groups Results of poor nutrition Results of good nutrition Food pyramid Additives

To Increase Rigor and Relevance:

1. When students are experienced with the technique have them work in teams to group and label the cards without talking.
2. Give students the opportunity to compare classification systems and discuss the effectiveness of each.
3. This tool can be used to consider the use of familiar terms in a specialized contexts or disciplines.

Reference: *Words, Words, Words* ~ Janet Allen



Reader's Toolbox

Student Name:

Class:

Due Date:

Reading Assignment:

Tool 13: Brainstorm, Group, Label

I can use this tool:

- ▶ Before I read
- While I read
- After I read

This tool will help me:

- ▶ Learn new words
- Summarize what I read
- Compare information and ideas

How I use this tool:

1. I think about the assigned term.
2. **Brainstorm** all the ideas or words that the term makes me think of and use small pieces of paper to write down each idea or word I think of.
3. **Group:** Work in a small team to sort all our ideas or word into groups
4. **Label:** Work in a team to develop a label for each group of facts / ideas.

Here's something I learned by using this tool: