

BRAINFIRING

Albert Einstein once said that, "If I had an hour to solve a problem, I'd spend 55 minutes thinking about the problem and 5 minutes thinking about solutions."

The brain firing technique gives students the opportunity to think about the original driving question from as many angles as they can.

Within this technique, students brainstorm as many ways as they can that the original driving question can be re-worked, re-phrased, or re-structured given what they discovered in the Investigation Stage.

DIRECTIONS:

Based upon what they discovered about the driving question in the Investigation Stage, have students brainstorm all of the different ways that they can re-phrase or re-structure the driving question.

For example, if students were investigating the driving question "How can we design a winning sundae for the ice cream store we are working with?" possible ways that this question could be rephrased include:

- "How can we design a sundae that is both sweet and salty for our ice cream store?"
- "How can we design a sundae that looks mouthwateringly delicious?"
- "How can we create a great sundae that does not cost a lot?"

After students are done re-phrasing the driving question a variety of ways, it is often helpful to have groups choose the top 3-5 questions that will guide what solutions they will come up with. For example, if the 3 questions above were what students chose, then the sundae being both salty and sweet, looking good, and not costing a lot would guide what ideas and solutions would work best in the end.

