

UNESCO Chair in Learning and Teaching Futures Literacy in the Anthropocene

Method mosaic

Title:	6-3-5 Brainwriting
Target audience:	Secondary Level I-II
Time:	Approx. 0.5 hours
Objective:	Futures literacy (GreenComp 3.1)
Topic:	independent of the topic
Materials:	worksheet with 3x7 table

Brief Description:

The 6-3-5 Brainwriting method is a structured creativity technique for generating ideas in groups. It works as follows: Six participants each receive a prepared worksheet—a table with 3 columns and 7 rows. The first row labels the columns as “Idea 1”, “Idea 2”, and “Idea 3”. Each participant writes down three ideas in response to a question or problem in the second row, with exactly 5 minutes allotted for this task. Then, the worksheet is passed to the next person, who further develops the existing ideas or adds new ones. This process is repeated over five rounds, ultimately resulting in a potential total of 108 ideas (6 participants × 3 ideas × 6 rounds).

The advantage of 6-3-5 Brainwriting is that all participants can contribute ideas simultaneously and independently, minimizing group dynamics such as dominance by certain individuals or reluctance to speak. The method encourages creative thinking and a wide variety of ideas, which can be further developed and refined with each round.

The 6-3-5 Brainwriting technique can be used to generate ideas about the future or explore questions related to future scenarios. The central question might focus on themes such as “What professions will exist in the future?” or “What will schools of the future look like?” to gather initial thoughts and use these as a foundation for a more detailed exploration of future possibilities.

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