**Teaching Tip**

**Nataliia Holodniuk**

**Carousel Brainstorming**



**Materials:** large sheets of paper.

**Student-based** (interactive) activity.

**Purpose:**

* to discover background knowledge before studying a new topic,
* to review the content learned.

Starts with small group discussion, followed by whole-class reflection.

Teacher grades the questions, depending on students’ level.

**Time:** Approximately 15 minutes for average groups of 4-6 students. It depends on the number of participants and sheets of paper/questions.

**Set up**

Large sheets of paper are posted on the wall at various points around the classroom. Each sheet has a question written. Students are divided into groups of 4-6 and each group assigned to a sheet of paper.

**Directions**

* Each group starts with a different colored marker. Groups stand in front of one of the pieces of the paper.
* Each group has to choose a recorder, who will write the ideas down.
* Read the question, brainstorm the responses to the questions and write down your responses.
* In 2 minutes, you will hear a signal. When you hear a signal, move one sheet to your right.
* Read the questions, brainstorm quickly and add to the new sheet. (2 minutes)
* At the signal move to your right and repeat the process.
* We finish when each group gets back to the sheet of paper they started.
* Optional: at the end each group could be given some time to develop the sheet they started with.

Students look at the sheets of paper and see what develop after they left.

They may group the ideas into categories; eliminate repeated ideas.

Each group reads out the answers the other groups left. Teacher draws attention to what is the focus.

**Alternative / modification**

* Teacher may also provide students with sheets of paper and form groups, in this way, students will not move, but pass their sheets of paper to the group on their right.
* If this is an online lesson – teacher can create rooms and use a Whiteboard to brainstorm ideas.

**Possible topics:**

The USA (history, geography, natural resources, culture…)

Compound nouns (halves of the words)

Common prefixes and/or suffices

Parts of speech

Food (meals, kinds, healthy/unhealthy…)

Places you can have fun

Things you remember/know about…

Link to the YouTube video which explains the procedure: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZxaS7v1-jo>