

Give One, Get One

This brainstorming activity is designed to access prior knowledge.

Setting Up the Activity

1. Have students fold a piece of paper lengthwise to form two columns and write, "Give One" at the top of the left-hand column and "Get One" at the top of the right-hand column.
2. Ask students to brainstorm a list of all the things they already know about the topic they will be studying by writing the items down in the left-hand column. You may want to give them a specific number of bullets to guide the amount of responses.
3. After making the list, have students stand and find a partner. Each person should "give one" of their ideas by saying it out loud. Partners take turns sharing.
4. Have students write any new information they get from these discussions in the "get one" column of their lists, along with the name of the person who gave them the information.
5. Students should rotate around the room, talking to two or three partners.
6. Once everyone has given and received information, the whole class can discuss the information students have listed.

Suggestions for implementation

- *As students brainstorm their individual lists, circulate around the room and provide information or ideas to those struggling to come up with any of their own. That way, when it is time for students to circulate and share information, no one has an empty list.*
- *Discuss the final lists of information with the aim of making sure they are accurate. Sometimes, students may have faulty content knowledge and it is important that they learn to discard incorrect information before starting the unit. Model drawing a line through incorrect facts.*