



STORMING TO THE BIG IDEA

Yes, and...

This exercise is designed to start the class (or a team) thinking creatively while receiving positive input from others. The same exercise can be used if students are creating their own big ideas without the assistance of magazines.

Materials needed:

- Science or current events magazines [*National Geographic, Scientific American, Time Magazine, The Week ...*]
- Index cards
- Pens/pencils

Process:

1. Divide the class or team into groups of two.
2. Provide each group with a magazine. In the case of current event-based magazines, tell them to use the science or medicine sections.
3. Each group has ten minutes to brainstorm a creative and imaginative exhibit idea based on an image or article in the magazine. Write the exhibit idea on the index card.
4. Each group has one minute to present their exhibit idea. The other groups are allowed one minute to add a “Yes, and...” with a positive comment to the presenting group’s original idea. No “buts” or naysaying allowed! One member of the presenting group should be taking quick notes.
5. Each group should summarize (and add a great title) to their idea based on their classmates’ input.
6. Now, there should be a whole set of cool exhibit ideas! How to decide which one(s) are best? Each group provides their exhibit’s title and a brief twenty-word recap. Asking for yes votes only, the class should vote on whether they would like to continue expanding the idea into a possible Battle of the Brains exhibit. Ask the presenting group to write the number of positive votes on their index card. The top three should be explored.