

## **Info Lit Tip – Brainstorming**

When students need to settle on the topic for their ILP/IRP/research paper, too often students settle on their first broad idea, and then try to write a paper that covers everything. Just a few minutes of brainstorming can help students generate many possible subtopics and/or approaches to their first idea. The result will be a limited topic and argument that can be more manageably researched.

For example, if their topic is ADHD, do they want to write about diagnosis or treatment?

If they want to write about ADHD treatment, should it be medical or behavioral? If it's medical, are they for it or against it?

Have students take five minutes to brainstorm possible subtopics or approaches. Here are four tried-and-true rules for brainstorming:

- 1) Think wild and crazy
- 2) Don't criticize your ideas while generating them
- 3) Don't stop yourself—think of lots of ideas
- 4) Share your ideas with others and get more ideas