

# BRAINSTORMING

## Supplies Needed:

- Pen, or something to write with.
- Paper, or something to write on. You will want lots of little pieces, like sticky notes or toilet paper (If you use toilet paper, make sure you have something under it so that you don't write through onto the table.
- A place to let these ideas 'layout,' like an unused part of the floor or an kitchen table that can be left cluttered till the next session.

## What the parent/mentor does:

- **Stage 1**
  - Write down ideas as quick as possible to help keep the ideas from your teen 'flowing.'
  - Encourage other ideas that you have heard from your teen
  - It is that simple.
- **Stage 2**
  - Look over the ideas. Pick two ideas that don't usually go together.
  - Encourage the teen to come up with unique ways of putting these things together.
  - Try to come up with three ideas for each pair, have fun and be creative.
  - Think outside the box. What if it was bigger, smaller, made of wax . . . ??? Ask your teen questions that gets them out of thinking about 'regular' things and into 'revolutionary' ideas.

## Tips:

- First and foremost, in brainstorming there are no stupid ideas. Even if it is a crazy idea, write it down. Don't comment or make a funny face, just jot down the idea. The crazier the ideas, the better this exercise will be for your teen.
- Parents, use questions to keep the ideas flowing:
  - What are some things you like to do?
  - What are some things you would like to do?
  - If you had all the money in the world, what would you do?
  - If you had all the time in the world, what would you want to do?
  - If you knew you would not fail, what would you do?
- Let ideas flow fast, don't explain them or try to figure things out. If a teen says, 'wallabee blankets' don't ask them about it, just write down what they say. This is one place most teens excel at: coming up with unique and creative ideas.
- Parents/Mentors should use abbreviations to help them write the ideas quicker.
- Don't let your teen talk about any idea. Just tell them, "We can talk about them in a minute, right now let's come up with a bunch of good ideas." When they think they are done, ask if they could think of just 5 more or just 3 more. You may be surprised when you stir their brain what they would come up with.
- Take as much time on this activity as you need. The more ideas you come up with the better. Later we will sort and evaluate these ideas. The key is to let ideas happen.

## OPTIONAL (highly suggested) SESSION: DREAM BUILDING

**Dream Building Trip:** Find out something your teen is excited about; something they want. It could be a car, a vacation, or anything that interests them. If they want a large house, go to a neighborhood and have them 'pick out' a house. If they want a certain sports car, find a dealership and let them sit in the car. If they want to go on a particular vacation, go to a travel agent and/or go to a restaurant with that theme and food. If they want a particular set up for a computer, have them go to a computer store and pick out the components that they want. The key is to give your teen an 'experience' with their dreams.

- The key is to focus on the 'why' a teen wants to do business and be successful. Ask your teen what kind of things they would like when they become successful with their business. If they have trouble coming up with ideas, ask them, "What would you do with a million dollars if you had to spend it?"
- Get pictures online for a memory, but let teens touch, feel, smell and experience their dream. It may only cost you gas to give your teen something that could last a lifetime, literally!
- The teens do not have this exercise on their sheet. You are to introduce it as you see fit. You can watch the teen video for an example of what we did and the reaction of the teen.
- After the experience, discuss what they like most about this item.