

Brainstorm It!

In this activity (featured in the *Service Toolkit*):

Members have personal experiences, observations and knowledge about the school, community, and world. That's a great place to start! Lead a brainstorming session as members work together to create a list of needs that can be addressed through service.

This activity allows members to:

- Share needs with each other that they observed and have heard about in the school, community, and world.
- Develop a good list that is a starting point for learning about what needs are authentic and pressing.
- Engage with fellow members.
- Increase their confidence and use of their voice.

Materials needed:

- White board or open wall space
- Sticky notes
- Broad tip markers (a variety of darker colors)

How to lead this activity:

1. Pair up members at desks or tables. Ask them to clear the tops as you distribute sticky notes and markers.
2. Direct members to take 5 minutes to share and discuss needs or causes they have observed or know about in the school, community, country and world.
3. Now ask them to take 10 minutes to write a word, phrase or sentence that captures each need separately on a note. For instance, one note might read: "kids come to school hungry" and another: "unequal pay for women". Have them create as many notes as possible.
4. Have a few members place their notes on the whiteboard or wall.
5. Then ask for them to group the sticky notes with similar needs, leaving room for more notes to surround each grouping.
6. Give remaining members turns to put up their notes in groupings with similar topics, creating new groupings for needs not yet present.
7. Facilitate a brief discussion:
 - Notice which groupings have the most notes. Why do they think this is the case?
 - Is the importance of a need related to how aware people are about it?
 - Are some needs addressed more often than others?
 - Which do they think are the greatest needs in your school? In your local community? In the world?
8. Let members know that this brainstorming will be used as a first step to determine a service project for the club.
9. Take pictures of the note groupings. Save them for future investigating!