Let’s Get Started

Using visualization and question prompts to get started, children will brainstorm a topic, an event, or a memory.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:
As with all organizers, model the process of brainstorming. Show children how to choose a topic and then elaborate on it using visualization and question prompts. Be sure to describe what you see when you model visualization. Being dramatic about your visualization often helps children create vivid pictures in their own minds during their visualizations. Be sure to review each box on the reproducible. With young children, this will take time. Model often so when children try, they begin with confidence. Over time, children may be able to do some of this planning mentally. It will become more automatic as they become more confident and experienced. Children can draw pictures and/or write words in the boxes to share their ideas and thoughts.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Model one box at a time and have students fill in each box independently. For example, after choosing a topic, model the visualization box and let the children try their visualization skills.

2. As they become more comfortable, introduce subsequent boxes, such as Who?, What?, Where?, When?, Why?, Feelings, and Tell More. Your pace will vary with your students’ abilities.

Tips
• Put a blank copy in each student’s writing folder for children to use whenever they begin a writing project. The more comfortable and proficient students become with writing skills, the easier it will be for them to get started and the more independent they will become as writers.
• Note the relationship between writing and reading as students can use this page to write a literature retelling or a response.