Georgia Performance Standards Framework for ELA Unit 5 – 6th Grade

Grade: 6
Topic: My Mind is Blank
Instructional unit: Standards: Review, Revisit, and Refocus
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The task:

Students are divided into groups and assigned a topic. Each group will be assigned a topic and will use the different prewriting techniques listed below to generate ideas that could be used in writing. Each group may work together on each technique, or the members may wish to divide (one group member per technique). Students will share responses with each other.

Prewriting Techniques

- Free write – The student writes freely for a specified period of time, recording any ideas that come to mind. The student will not stop writing during that time period, even if this results in writing phrases like ‘this is so hard’, ‘right now my mind is blank’, etc. Fragment phrases are acceptable; responses do not have to be complete sentences.
- Looping – Student writes freely and then circles an idea that appeals to him. He then writes freely on the circled idea. This process continues until the student settles on a topic he likes.
- Brainstorming – The student lists everything he or she can think of related to a particular subject. The student should record all ideas. The student should not reject any ideas at this point,
- Clustering (mapping or webbing) – The student writes the topic in the center of the page, branches from it, writing words or phrases they associate with that topic.
- Idea listing – The student writes the topic at the top of a blank sheet of paper and then lists as many ideas as possible. Upon completion, the student reviews the ideas and selects one he wishes to develop.

Modifications:

Assign the lower level students to the more structured formats (brainstorming and clustering). Provide students with templates or graphic organizers to guide them through the activity.

Examples:
Focus Standard:

**ELA6W4** The student consistently uses the writing process to develop, revise, and evaluate writing. The student
a. Plans independently and resourcefully.

Circumstances of the assignment/Notes to the Teachers:

In this activity, all group members must participate.

The teacher may have all groups using a different prewriting technique with the same topic or have groups use one prewriting technique with multiple topics.