

## List ~ Group ~ Label

### **What**

This is a brainstorming and categorizing activity that allows students to think about, categorize, label, and discuss words related to a topic. Prior to starting a new unit or reading a book/chapter, the teacher selects a central concept or theme. Students are given the concept/theme and are asked to do the three basic steps below. Words that students generate in this activity can serve as a pre-assessment for teachers to know what background knowledge students have before starting a new unit. This activity can also be done at the end of a unit to assess new knowledge. The end-of-unit list can be compared with the pre-unit list.

### **Why**

A think-pair-share is a research-based strategy that allows all students time to brainstorm individually, as well as have time to work with others to enhance their current understanding of a new concept. Students often learn more from their peers, so it is important to allow time for students to share ideas among themselves.

### **How**

#### List:

On their own, students brainstorm words related to the concept/theme word given by the teacher. Ask students to list as many words as they can, with a minimum of ten words. Challenge the students to list more if possible.

#### Group:

Students work in small groups to share and combine their words into logical categories. When students begin to combine their lists, they will discover patterns of words, helping to refine their knowledge of the central concept. Students work together to combine their individual lists into a common group list that includes all of their words.

#### Label:

Once the group creates their categories of words, they label each. The categories can become the basis for beginning a word wall or word notebook for the unit.