

## Free Association

- Quick
- Unstructured
- Student Response

Overview: Students simply say any words they think of when they hear a particular term.

Procedure: Announce it is “free-association” time. Call out a term – the target-and ask students to take turns as a class, partners, or small group, saying any word they think of that is related to the target term. After a few seconds, say “STOP.” The last person to say a word must explain how that word is related to the target.

Example:

<b>Target Term:</b> Requirements for life
<b>Related Words:</b>  water food shelter oxygen air warmth homes family friends society

Alternative: Ask student to write their responses in a learning log or on scratch paper. When you say, “STOP,” they exchange papers with a partner and ask each other to explain any of the words on their lists but are also exposed to the thinking of another student.

TIP: If you do this activity aloud with an entire class, set parameters to avoid chaos. Require students to raise a hand and be called on, or, to ensure they pay attention to their peers’ responses, require them to repeat the previous response before offering one.