

Brainstorming Student's Guide

Skills Students Need

This module address communications skills, provides opportunities for information gathering, synthesis, and analysis in solving problems and in critical thinking, and requires teamwork and collaborative learning.

You should have the following skills prior to using this module:

- ability to send and receive e-mail
- ability to access and use the Penn State Course Management System, ANGEL
- ability to use a network browser and access to the Internet

If you feel you are lacking some of these skills, there are resources available at Penn State where you can go for help. Some of these resources include:

- computer labs
- seminars
- periodic training sessions
- peer tutoring

For more information about these resources, use the Penn State Web site, <http://www.psu.edu>, to search for the location of the University Learning Center at your location. Staff at the Learning Centers will be able to help you find the additional help you need. Your academic advisor can also help you locate resources for getting help.

ANGEL

The iStudy for Success! modules work in the Penn State course management system, ANGEL (<http://cms.psu.edu>) In order to log on to ANGEL, you will need to have activated your Access account. For more information about your Access Account, see <http://aset.its.psu.edu/accounts/access.html>.

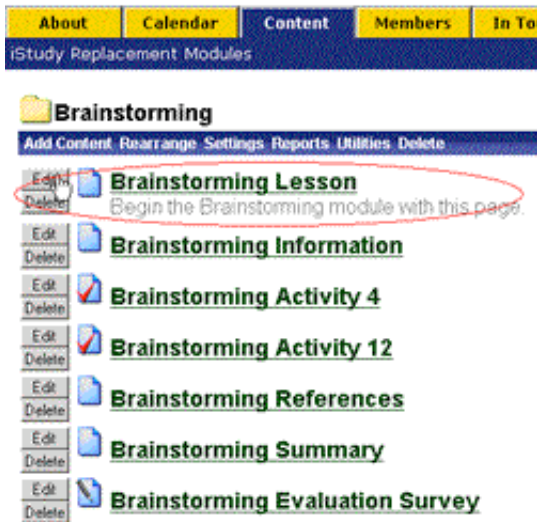
If you are completing iStudy for Success modules as part of a class, your instructor will tell you which modules and activities to complete and how to access them. If you are completing iStudy modules on your own or with the help of a tutor at the University Learning Centers, directions for creating a group in ANGEL and importing modules are found at the iStudy Web site (<http://istudy.psu.edu/access.html>).

Quizzes, Reflective Questions and Activities

Each module contains activities designed to help you learn and practice the concepts presented. Reflective questions help you recall what you already know about the topic as well as to work through new ideas and concepts. Worksheets and tip sheets supplement the instruction and give you an opportunity for additional practice. Quizzes provide yet another means for you to practice as well as to check to be sure you have read and understand the materials.

The modules all have a standard layout. When you import a module into your ANGEL group a folder with the module's name will be added under the "Content" tab (ANGEL group). This folder can be moved and placed within another folder if desired.

To start the module, you should open the first file in the list inside each module's folder. This file has the word *lesson* as part of its name and contains the links to other parts of the lesson.



Open the first file in the module folder to begin the lesson.

This "master" file contains descriptions of the purpose, goals, and objectives, as well as instructions for completing the module, references to materials used in designing and developing the content of the module, a summary of the important points in the module, and a survey for you to complete after finishing the module. (Survey results are available to editors in the group or course through the on-line grade report tool.) If you are completing the modules as part of a course, your instructor will tell you if you are to complete the survey or not. If you are completing the modules on your own or with a tutor in the Learning Centers, you do not need to complete the survey.

The rest of the files in each module's folder are accessed through links embedded within the content. As you read the content and complete the activities, other files from the module will be used. Some students may become confused because they try to complete the module by working their way down the list and viewing each file without reading the accompanying materials. This is not the way the module was designed to be completed.

Note: The module will only work correctly if you begin with the "master" file and work through the activities using the embedded links.

Scores for quizzes are recorded in ANGEL and can be accessed through the on-line grade report tool. Responses to reflective questions using the "My Notes" tool are accessible only to the person who types them - they are not available to the group or course editors.

Assignments Checklist

Following are the assignments embedded in the Brainstorming module:

- Activity 1: Reflective questions about brainstorming
- Activity 2: Reflective question - define brainstorming
- Activity 3: Reflective question - describe a situation where you used brainstorming
- Activity 4: Quiz
- Activity 5: Reflective question - how can notes be made available to the group?
- Activity 6: Reflective question - what is the ideal group size for brainstorming?
- Activity 7: Reflective question - resolving misunderstanding
- Activity 8: Reflective question - why do groups need a mediator?
- Activity 9: Reflective question - role play
- Activity 10: Reflective question - what do you need to do to have a successful brainstorming session?
- Activity 11: Reflective question - evaluate this brainstorming session
- Activity 12: Quiz
- Activity 13: Brainstorming assignment
- Activity 14: Reflective questions about experiences with brainstorming
- Activity 15: Nominal Group Technique for Brainstorming

Relationship to Other iStudy Modules

This module is related to other modules on personal effectiveness, including note taking, active listening, active reading, time management, project management, academic research interviewing skills, stress management, conflict management, and peer tutoring.

