

# Big Idea Generator

What's the Big Idea?



**Brainstorm** topics for a project -- BIG ideas. These may be related to one or more standards, but Big Ideas should not be confined to a single discipline and the wording for most standards does not work well as a BIG idea.

**Select one** to continue working on, but be flexible and open to revising, restating, or completely changing your Big Idea at this point.

**Try casting your Big Idea as an Enduring Understanding statement.** This should be a complete sentence (simple, compound, or complex) that captures the fundamental concepts that you want your students to understand, know, and/or do. However, unlike a performance standards or curricular goal, this should be a foundational concept that is important enough to return to again and again (enduring) because of its importance and/or its complexity.

Ultimately, you want to phrase the Big Idea statement in student-friendly language -- developmentally appropriate for the target students for the project. Look at your statement above. Does it need to be re-phrased for students? Consider the Big Ideas Checklist for additional ways to revise and improve your BIG Idea. If there is time, work on that now. If not, you can come back to that task later.