Possible Topics I brainstormed for Ideas:

* Designing & Implementing an information search & retrieval course at the secondary level
* Implementing an elementary inquiry-based search component to curriculum
* Creating a student centered inquiry learning portfolio component for ongoing assessment that shows student evidence of inquiry learning - where grade level target projects are set for certain grade levels

**Question Brainstormer**

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|  | **Topic #1: Designing & Implementing an Information Search & Retrieval Course at the Secondary level** | **Topic # 2 : Creating a on-going student centered inquiry based portfolio component for assessment** |
| Which one? (Collect information to make an informed choice.)  Eg. Which 20th Century president did the most to promote civil rights? | Which grade level would gain the most from a search & retrieval course?  Which research model would be used to design the course or be used to implement the course? | Which grade level would the on-going student centered inquiry based portfolio assessment begin at?  Which grades would be included in the on-going student centered inquiry based portfolio assessment?  Which platform(s) would be the best ones to use for on-going student centered inquiry based portfolio assessments?  Which search model would be used with the grade levels? |
| How? (Understand problems and perspectives,weigh options, and propose solutions.)  Eg. How should we solve the problem of water pollution in our neighborhood? | How should the course be added or designed?  How would the new course benefit our school?  How would adding another teacher to either the high school or elementary benefit our school district? | How would the on-going student centered inquiry based portfolio assessment be implemented at each grade level that is included?  How many projects should be included at each grade level? |
| What if? (Use the knowledge you have to pose a hypothesis and consider options.)  Eg. What if the Declaration of Independence abolished slavery? | What if the course can’t fit in the course schedule?  What if we added the course content to an already existing course?  What if we hired another teacher-librarian to teach this course? | What if a full-time librarian or technology teacher can help team up with grade level teachers to collaborate on projects and assist students in and out of the classroom and library?  What if using the same inquiry based learning model or search model helps students become information literate? |
| Should? (Make a moral or practical decision based on evidence.)  Eg. Should we clone humans? | Should we design a new course for our students at the jr/sr high school?  Should the course be designed for junior high students (7-9) or be designed for high school students (10-12)? | Should elementary & secondary grades be included in the on-going student centered portfolio?  Should all grade levels use the same search model? |
| Why? (Understand and explain relationships to get to the essence of a complicated issue.)  Eg. Why do people abuse children? | Why would an Information Search & Retrieval course be a benefit to our students? | Why would an on-going student centered inquiry based portfolio be worth implementing?  Why would we want to add this assessment component? |

Reflection on using “Question Brainstormer”:

For this assignment, I ended up using the “Question Brainstormer” template. I liked using the template. I found it very easy to use. The sample question column was a nice guide. I did have some trouble coming up with questions for each row, but I think that was mainly from not quite seeing the big picture on the actual 11\_1 assignment. I thought some of my questions repeated from row to row. And in some cases I had more than one question for that row. I felt that the more questions I was able to brainstorm at this point the more that would help me when I continue on to the next stage.

A template like this can be used to help students at the beginning part of the search process and help them to build “good” questions. I really believe the sample question column would be a huge benefit to students. If I were to use this with students I would just add one thing to the template. I would add a set of directions to it.

I also had a few minutes to look at Tom March’s Thesis Builder and played around with it a little. I think I am going to like this as well.