

TONY: So we need to narrow the topic, "modes of transportation." Any ideas?

ALICIA: Well, there's mass transit—trains and boats and planes.

TONY: I used to take MARTA to school, and the service was pretty good, so I suppose I could write about using the metro. How about the rest of you? (Silence)

OK, so we need to narrow to something we can all write about, something that we know more about.

BETH: Why not focus on the form of transportation each of us uses, the advantages or disadvantages of however we get around. For me that would be my car, and it won't be hard for me to decide to write about disadvantages because something is always going wrong with it.

ALICIA: I ride the bus. There are advantages because it's cheap, but there are disadvantages, too, because it takes so long, so I don't know which I would focus on.

BETH: You might make a list of advantages and disadvantages and see which seems stronger.

TONY: I ride a bike most of the time, so I wouldn't have any trouble coming up with reasons and details about why I like it. Or I could try to persuade students to ride their bikes safely by wearing helmets and obeying traffic laws.

DAN: There are lots of ways to narrow "bikes." I just read this article in the newspaper about expanding the city's bike paths and making the city more bike-friendly to encourage more people to use bikes. I could write something trying to persuade the city to improve bike lanes.

BETH: Alicia, if you're focusing on the bus and you decide you want to write about disadvantages, you could direct it toward the bus company or the city to try to make them improve the service.

ALICIA: Good idea! As a student rider, I've got lots of suggestions for improvements.

BETH: Does everyone have a narrowed topic? I'm doing the disadvantages of my car. Dan, what did you decide on?

DAN: I'm going to try to convince the city to improve bike paths.

TONY: And I'm going to focus on the advantages of bikes for students.

ALICIA: I'm going to do something about improving bus service for students.

## Peer Example

### Group Brainstorming Session



## Group

“ I'm comfortable writing about my car because I know so much about it and will have an easy time coming up with ideas. ”

**Topic:** Modes of transportation

**Narrowed topic:** Disadvantages of my car

## Peer Example

## Beth