**Brainstorming Alternatives**

In this activity, students practice imagining alternatives and objections.

**Materials**

You’ll need a list of issues on which students differ. You can draw questions from anywhere, but you can also use this exercise as a review if you look for ones where students have already disagreed about the readings. If you share responses, you’ll need a board.

**Process**

1. Have students declare their position in response to the issue. Put students in groups that share the same position.

   As homework, assign students two tasks:

   - List three objections to the argument that they anticipate the other group will make; then predict how the other group might acknowledge and respond to their objections.

   - List three objections that they think the other group may have against their position; then think of ways to acknowledge and respond to those possible objections.

   Students should bring enough copies for the group.

3. Students meet in groups to share their lists and pick the five objections or alternatives that they think they can raise against other group, and the five objections or alternatives that they think the other group is most likely to raise against their own position.
4. Either collect the lists or, if you want to discuss them, reconvene the class to make a master list of acknowledgments for each position. In each case, the acknowledgments should speak to the concerns of one or more of the other groups. If those groups do not feel that those acknowledgments represent their concerns, have the students try to figure out what went wrong.

*NOTE:* If your students find this exercise too challenging at first, have them represent the position opposite to their own; that way, to think of acknowledgments they have to consider only what they already think.