**Conference Proposals**

This activity helps students think about how their research questions respond to a community of inquiry.

**Process**

1. Before assigning a paper, have the class go through at least one round of Brainstorming Questions to prime their thinking.

2. With the whole class, help students select at least six questions too large for papers or even general topics related to the theme of the class.

3. Write up and distribute a “Call for Papers” with four or five panels based on the best questions or topics. Describe each panel as broadly as you can, but point students toward manageable paper questions.

4. Each student must subscribe to one of the panels. If any panel has fewer than three subscribers, cancel it. If a panel gets too big, divide it.

5. Require students on a panel to work together to formulate individual paper topics related to the panel, to serve as readers and editors through the drafting process, and to present papers to you bound together as a panel.

6. *(Optional)* If you have time, have panels give presentations. Don’t let students read their papers out loud to the class; give them ten minutes to share with the
rest of the class what they learned about their general topic. Ask them to meet to prepare and rehearse their presentations.

7. *(Optional)* Give students a chance to revise their papers after their presentations.