

# Lotus Blossom Diagram

*#brainstorming #creativity #problem-solving*

The Lotus Diagram is a helpful tool to support groups in finding solutions and taking a closer look at problems or tasks.

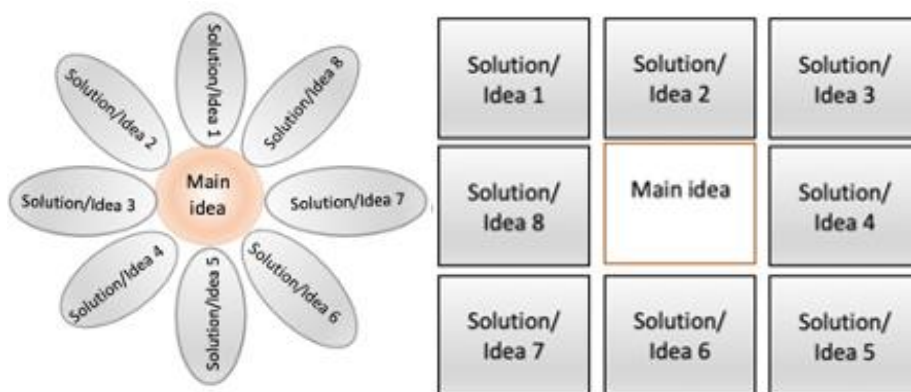
**Arrangement:** group work, partner work, plenum

**Phase:** Introduction, Elaboration

## Description:

The Lotus Diagram should give a framework for groups to brainstorm about problems/themes/ideas and find solutions or subtopics connected to the main idea/problem.

In the core circle/square of this method is the main problem/idea, which represents the stem. The stem is surrounded by up to eight circles/squares representing the petals, and each petal includes a solution or idea to solve/extend the main problem/idea. The Lotus Diagram should look like this:



Each petal can function as a new stem, evolve into another lotus flower, and add more dimensions to the main topic/problem. This adds up to a cluster with different lotus flowers, which still belong to the main idea/problem.

## Hints:

The Lotus Diagram should not include more than six to nine flowers; otherwise, the diagram gets confusing.

This method is helpful for students that already encounter methods like brainstorming or similar techniques to give their idea development more structure and organisation.

## Material:

- Pen
- Lotus-Diagram, you can download an example from our material collection "Material-Ecke". Alternative a paper sheet

### Sources (German):

Higgins, James M. (1996). Innovate or evaporate: creative techniques for strategists. *Long Range Planning*, 29(3), 370-380.

Lilicrap, Diana. „The Lotus Blossom Technique – An organised and visual technique that will generate dozens of new ideas.“ *5 by 5 Design*, 18. August.2011, <https://5by5design.com/index.php/advice/lotus-blossom-technique>. Web. Accessed 02/08/2022

Rhodes, Mel. “An Analysis of Creativity.” *The Phi Delta Kappan*, vol. 42, no. 7, 1961, pp. 305–10. *JSTOR*, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20342603>. Web. Accessed 02/08/2022.