

# Brainstorming

## Fair Trade

Goal: To consider what makes trade fair; to learn the principles of Fair Trade.

Materials: Paper, pencils/markers/pens

Time: 15 minutes

Activity:

1. Split participants into groups of 3 or 4 students.
2. Ask each group to brainstorm what would be needed to make a trading system fair (just pay, good conditions, etc).
3. After ten minutes, ask the groups to share what they've brainstormed.
4. Reveal the principles of Fair Trade. You may also visit the 10 principles of Fair Trade at the [World Fair Trade Organization](http://www.fairtradeusa.org).

According to [transfairusa.org](http://transfairusa.org):

"Fair Trade principles include:

- **Fair prices:** Democratically organized farmer groups receive a guaranteed minimum floor price and an additional premium for certified organic products. Farmer organizations are also eligible for pre-harvest credit.
- **Fair labor conditions:** Workers on Fair Trade farms enjoy freedom of association, safe working conditions, and living wages. Forced child labor is strictly prohibited.
- **Direct trade:** With Fair Trade, importers purchase from Fair Trade producer groups as directly as possible, eliminating unnecessary middlemen and empowering farmers to develop the business capacity necessary to compete in the global marketplace.
- **Democratic and transparent organizations:** Fair Trade farmers and farm workers decide democratically how to invest Fair Trade revenues.
- **Community development:** Fair Trade farmers and farm workers invest Fair Trade premiums in social and business development projects like scholarship programs, quality improvement trainings, and organic certification.
- **Environmental sustainability:** Harmful agrochemicals and GMOs are strictly prohibited in favor of environmentally sustainable farming methods that protect farmers' health and preserve valuable ecosystems for future generations."