Brainstorming the Two-Sentence "Love" Story

To prepare:

- Print brainstorming graphic organizer
- Cut into four cards
- Explain what each icon represents

    - ⚙️ = Something I love to do
    - 🚗 = A place I love to go
    - 👤 = Someone I love to see/spend time with
    - ❤️ = Wild card: anything at all that I love!

Partner Brainstorming: Go Fish! 🎣 For Writing Ideas

1. In pairs, each child holds four cards with the images facing them, so their partner cannot see them.

2. One child selects a card from their partner's hand and then describes something they love and why they love it.

    Example: if the child draws the "person" card, they might describe their favorite aunt and what they love about her.

3. The player lays the card down and the turn moves to their partner.

4. The round of play continues until all the cards have been laid down.

5. At the end of the round, each player identifies their favorite stories–one of their own, and one of their partners.

6. Each player takes several minutes to write a few words on the corresponding icon cards to remind them of the story.

7. Play resumes, with each partner taking turns drawing cards, telling stories, identifying favorites, and making notes.

8. This can continue until ideas are exhausted and players are ready to write.

Variation: *In a round of play, have partners ask a follow-up question or two to learn more.*

From Brainstorming to Writing

General approach

- Ask the child to circle a couple of favorite stories they've told
- Choosing one, the child responds to the prompt with a two-sentence story
- The child can create several responses, each one telling a different story
- Ask the child to share a favorite response or two with their Go Fish! partner, and discuss if there are describing words that could be added that would help a reader picture their thoughts more clearly

Choose a favorite and write it on the submission form

- The child can illustrate their story if they'd like to
- Add adult narration for clarity as needed for emergent and pre-emergent writers