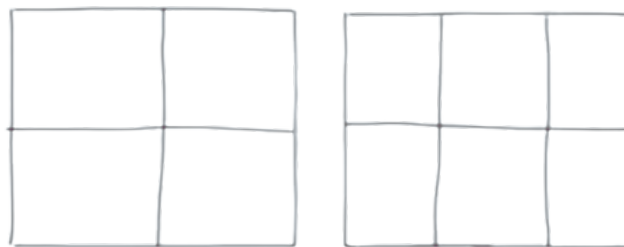


# 6-8-5 Strategy

**Why this strategy?** This helps students explore many possibilities, not just their first thought. It also allows for you to see their thinking process in real time.

- 1 **Have student draw grid boxes.** There should be 6-10 boxes on a page. You want to create boxes big enough for students to sketch their ideas in, but small enough to constrain them to one idea per box.

Like this!



- 2 **Pick a problem.** Select a problem that needs a solution. This could be a math problem, a design problem, or a problem for a character in a chapter students just read.
- 3 **Share the steps.** Tell students that the goal with 6-8-5 is to generate between 6-8 ideas (related to the problem) in 5 minutes.
- 4 **Sketch for 5 minutes.** Set a time for 5 minutes. Tell students to sit silently and sketch out as many ideas as they can until the timer ends, with the goal of reading 6-8 ideas. The sketches can - and should - be very rough. This is about thinking, not perfection.
- 5 **Share solutions.** When time runs out, students share their sketches with a partner or the rest of the group. The partner or group can ask questions of each student, but this is not a time for a larger brainstorming session. This is designed to explore as many solutions to a problem as possible.

## Alternative:

Try substituting a different art form for drawing. *For example, students can create 6-8 movements to demonstrate a solution. Or 6-8 rhythms that showcase the resolution to a story conflict.*