

Prewriting Strategies

ESSENTIAL WORK DONE BEFORE WRITING YOUR PAPER

BRAINSTORMING

- Write down all thoughts as quick as possible in a list
- Thoughts can be disconnected or even single words
- Write down ALL of your ideas
 - You never know where they'll lead!
- Once finished, group ideas together to make possible topics

FREEWITING

- Similar to brainstorming, but usually uses full sentences
- Write all thoughts about the topic and prompt
- Ignore grammar and punctuation---focus on the ideas!
- The sentences don't have to be connected or correlated



OUTLINING

- Bullet point list focusing on organization of the paper
 - Start with main topics and break them into subtopics
- Outlines can be organized by paragraph or topic

MINDMAPPING

- Mind mapping is a visual way of brainstorming
- Start with a single word or thought in the middle of the page
 - Brainstorm other words or thoughts around the main one
 - Connect all of the words!

ASKING QUESTIONS

- Write down all questions that could be related to the topic or prompt
 - These can be questions you don't know the answer to
- These questions may lead to a common theme that could become an essay topic or framework for the essay