Brainstorming

Prewriting is often a difficult part of the writing process. It is the part that focuses on forming ideas. The key to prewriting is to get ideas flowing and then to discern what is most helpful. There are many forms of prewriting, but one of the easiest ways to generate new ideas is by brainstorming.

Brainstorming can be used to find the main idea of your paper and to look for the ideas needed to back up that topic. Brainstorming is unique because it is able to be done both alone and in groups.

How to Brainstorm

- Start by sitting in front of a blank page. This can be on the computer or on actual paper. If looking at something blank makes you nervous, jot a couple things down about your general idea. If you have no idea, maybe draw a little picture. Putting something on the page will make it look less intimidating.

- Get relaxed and start thinking of anything that could possibly help you with your paper.

- Write down everything that comes to mind. It doesn’t matter if you think it feels random or if you don’t think you will ever use it. Every bit of information that you write now could be helpful when writing your paper. The purpose of brainstorming is to record your ideas so you can look back at them later.

- Once you have a long list of ideas, read over them, and see if they will work with your topic.

- Look for connections between your chosen points.

Brainstorming is a way to get ideas on the page, so you can organize them into a great paper. It is a short and easy process that will help you in one of the trickiest parts of writing: prewriting.