

Brainstorm

This activity is what writers spend the most time doing before they write. Before your pen touches the paper, learn all that you can about your topic.

- **Discuss** the topic with others to learn other points of view.
- **Read** all that you can about the topic to learn the facts. Use your text books, magazines, newspapers and encyclopedia.
- **Research** the topic on the internet to find out if there is anything new that you should know.
- **Draw**, take or gather pictures about your topic.
- **Use your creativity** and imagination.

The more time you spend thinking and brainstorming, at the beginning of an assignment, the less time you will waste while you are writing.

"General Writing Resource." OWL. Purdue Online Writing Lab. 2011. Web. <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/section/1/>

Organize

- **Focus your topic** so that you can effectively cover it. Ask yourself "Is this a good topic for an essay, or would I need to write a book to cover this topic?"
- **Plan** how you will order your support. Will you use 'time' or 'sequence', will you use 'order of importance', will you use 'spatial order'?
- **Outline** your ideas on paper. (Cooperate with another classmate: exchange outlines and offer each other suggestions to improve order or clarity. It is easier to make changes on your outline, than on a completed writing.)

Rough Draft

- **Get your ideas on paper.** Make sure they are your own. Remember your instructor doesn't expect you to be the originator of great ideas. You can synthesize (put together) ideas, cite the authors of the ideas and give your personal interpretation, which may become a great idea! [Fair Use](#)
- **Use clear simple sentences** at this stage. (You can add complex clause construction later.) Also, don't worry too much about the grammar yet. Just get your supporting points on paper.
- **Follow your outline.** Going 'off subject' often happens because the writer is following a 'stream of consciousness' instead of an organized plan. (Use your text book for ideas and suggestions for phrasing what you want to say.)

<http://www.eslflow.com/AcademicWritng.html>