BEFORE THE WRITING
Different Styles of Prewriting
Prepared by
Virginia Seatherton

Planning
Gather the material you will need before you even consider writing anything
- Make an outline
- Store notes
- Talk to friends and ask them to ask you questions so that you can clarify your thoughts

Brainstorming
Write down everything you think you want to write about as soon as it comes into your head. Don’t worry about organizing those ideas yet, that comes later. You don’t have to write in sentences or even English, but just write. Every word you write down will spark another word to write which will lead to more and more ideas!

Freewriting
Consider this as a mind dump! The purpose of freewriting is that you write and do not stop. Write down whatever comes into your head. Ideally, you should write about your topic, but it is OK to drift off track. Some of the best ideas POP out when we least expect them.

Listing
List what you know about your topic and hopefully this will generate questions of things you will need to find out before you begin writing. Listing is an organized way to produce ideas. Some people are listers. If you are one of these people, use listing to your advantage as you formulate your ideas
Conversation or Collaboration

Talk with others. Some like to work alone, others like to work in groups. Talk produces talk and if the listener asks you questions you produce even more talk and more ideas.

Outlining

Organize your thoughts and structure of your paper by making an outline. An outline is the structure of your paper – the order of your ideas. Outlines may change, but they help you plan how you want to organize your ideas.

Mapping

Think big! Use large pieces of paper and write down every idea for your paper in a word or two. Link every idea to every other idea visually. All of these ideas should link to your thesis in the middle of the paper.

FOR EXAMPLE ...

---