



PAGE A WRITER

FOR EVERY WORD AT STAKE

BRAINSTORMING TECHNIQUES

You may have a general idea of the subject matter for your personal essay, but you still need to decide on the best way to express it. Brainstorming helps articulate and organize your thoughts. From a pool of ideas, you will choose a specific one to explore.

I Freewriting: Set a time for writing. Write within that time frame to create pressure. Write continuously within that time, about the subject, with little or no concern for grammar or structure. Write freely, tapping into the subconscious to uncover hidden gems and insights.

Freewriting Prompts

1. Write **about a place**, how you remember it.
2. Imagine **a conversation with any object** in your room. Freewrite the imagined dialogue.
3. Write about **a current problem** and all possible solutions.
4. Describe **a sound you're hearing**. Write about your reaction to this sound.
5. Freewrite **any skill you'd like to learn**; what you will do with that skill; how it could change your life.
6. Write about **a dream**, capturing all the details you can remember.
7. Freewrite **a color** and everything you associate with that color.
8. Imagine **waking up tomorrow with a superpower**. Write about the first thing you would do.
9. Explore **an interesting question**, what makes it a curiosity for you.
10. Write **a letter to your future self**. What advice, hopes, or predictions are in order?
11. Freewrite on **what always brings you joy**.
12. Describe **the view from your window**, focusing on sensory details.

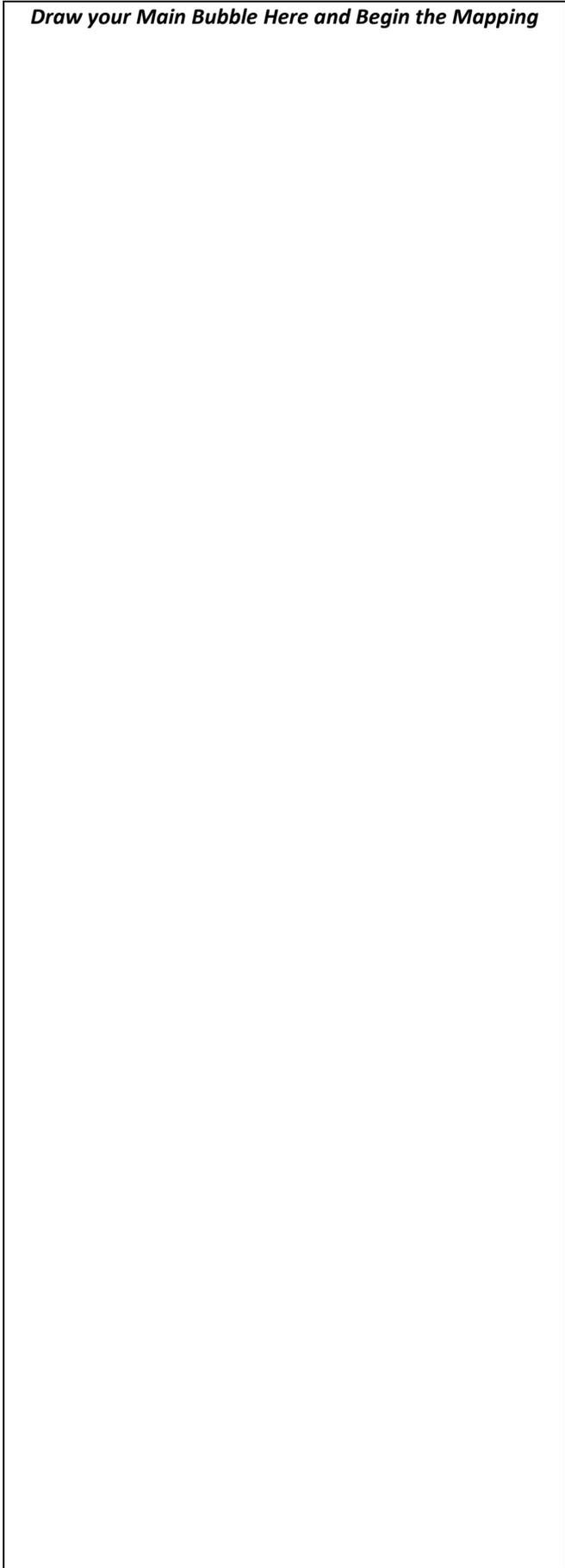
Copy a freewriting prompt and write your draft here:

II Mind Mapping: Mind mapping results in multiple layers of information and non-linear relationships. Draw the central concept within a thought bubble and let the visual hyperlink of thoughts branch out to related subtopics. Visual key points and connections will then reveal focus topics for exploration.

Mind Mapping Prompts

1. **"Happiness."** Explore sources, interpretations, and various expressions.
2. **"Future of Technology."** Create branches for specific technologies (AI, VR, space travel, etc.) and potential impacts.
3. **"Memorable Journey."** Explore different stages, emotions, and key events.
4. **"Environmental Sustainability."** Branch out to areas like renewable energy, conservation, pollution, and individual actions.
5. **"Community."** Explore types of communities, their benefits, challenges, and how they function.
6. **"Power of Storytelling."** Branch out to genres, techniques, and the impact of stories on individuals and society.
7. **"Learning a New Skill."** Explore stages, resources, challenges, and rewards
8. **"The Human Body."** Branch out to systems (circulatory, nervous, skeletal, etc.) and their functions.
9. **"Creativity."** Explore forms, the creative process, and its importance.
10. **"A Historical Event."** Explore causes, key figures, consequences, and perspectives.
11. **"Planning a Project."** Explore different stages, resources, obstacles, and desired outcomes.
12. **"The Senses."** Branch out to the five senses and explore related memories, descriptions, and associations.

Draw your Main Bubble Here and Begin the Mapping



III Research: Get inside a library, or explore online libraries to select articles, books, or videos to study. Pay close attention to the details of the sources. Expose yourself to diverse premises, perspectives, and arguments using a variety of sources, from academic journals to decent blogs, reputable books to news clippings.

A. Research Prompts

1. Research on **the history and cultural significance** of a staple local food.
2. Research on the viewpoints about a **current social issue** from news articles or academic sources.
3. Investigate **the life and works of an artist** from biographies, critical analyses, or interviews.
4. Research a **natural phenomenon** (e.g., the aurora borealis, earthquakes) using reliable scientific articles or videos.
5. Explore sources that discuss the origins, development, and **current status of a technology**.
6. Research **the impact of a new law** from legal documents, historical analyses, and news reports.
7. Investigate **theories surrounding a mysterious event** from books, documentaries, or popular articles.
8. Research **an indigenous group** from anthropological studies, documentaries, or reputable websites.
9. Find scientific reports, news articles, and industry analyses **about climate change**.
10. Research the **psychological effects of social media**, in academic studies and by psychologists.
11. Investigate **the architecture of a region** using photographs, architectural analyses, or historical documents.
12. Research **learning a second language** from pedagogical studies, language learning blogs, or expert interviews.

IV Discussion: Technically, this brainstorming technique assumes that you've written a draft. During the WordFellow Shop, a word-fellow will help you explore all angles and generate perspectives and ideas in brainstorming for you to have a more confident stand or angle on a subject. This is like gaining some kind of imprimatur to address ethical problems.

B. Discussion Prompts

1. Discuss the ethical implications.
2. Discuss representation and difference.
3. Discuss local versus global impact.
4. Discuss limitations.
5. Discuss excesses.
6. Discuss repetitions or redundancies.
7. Discuss glaring flaws in style.
8. Discuss language flaws and ethical use of AI if relevant.
9. Discuss impact on community.
10. Discuss length.

What needs deep research, consultation, and discussion about your subject matter?