

Pre-Writing Session

The purpose of prewriting is to get all your ideas from your head to your paper. Prewriting, drafting, **and** revising are all three necessary to get to a solid final result in a written assignment.

There are 3 ways you can prewrite: brainstorming, free-writing, and mapping.

Try the method that best suits your learning style. Brainstorming works well if you like to make **lists**, free writing is best if you need a few minutes of **stream of consciousness** to get your ideas flowing, and mapping can be great for **visual learners**.

Choose the prompt option you want to write about. Now read it again carefully and make a bulleted list below of all of the exact things it asks for. (Look for questions and commands in the prompt.)

Use your own paper for your prewriting exercise. Make lists to address the bullet points you wrote above, free write your own ideas to answer them, or make a map to address them. Do what works best for you.

Now take a look at what you have written. Can you cluster any of your ideas together? Use highlighters to color code what you've written here. Cross out any ideas that seem less important or less usable in a paper.

Now try to write 1-2 sentences that summarize the argument you see in your response.

Revise the statement written above and use stronger, more specific, and more direct language. Remove any phrases that are vague or confusing. Use strong verbs.

(Congrats! You just wrote a thesis statement.)

Keeping in mind the length requirements of your essay, how could you potentially organize your body paragraphs? Using your own paper, write a bulleted outline or a cluster map to organize your ideas. Once you have finished that initial loose outline, begin looking for passages from the story to support your points and then you can write page numbers next to your ideas.