

STAGE 1: Prewriting

SO WHAT IS “PREWRITING?”

Prewriting is the first stage of the writing process, typically followed by drafting, revision, editing and publishing. Prewriting can consist of a combination of outlining, diagramming, storyboarding, and clustering. Remember, there are no “rules” or guidelines you have to follow in this stage!

WHAT’S THE FIRST STEP?

- Understand the prompt or assignment directions
 - Restate prompt in own words
- What ideas come to mind when you think about the prompt?
- Ask if research is needed
- What argument are you focusing on or wanting to make?
- What type of paper are you trying to produce? (informative, persuasive, process, etc.)

PREWRITING STRATEGIES

- Make bubble map/circle map
- Try “free writing” (Just write random random stuff as to comes to mind. It will help get what you want to talk about or say down on paper.)
- Brainstorming
- Clustering/mapping (Similar to the bubble maps, just a way to get thoughts out and going.)

Once I have ideas to work with...

- Evaluate strong/weak ideas (eliminate if needed)
- Formulate what you actually want to say
- Build off of stronger topics. “Free write” off to the side some other ideas or examples that could help strengthen ideas or topics.)
- If you are a proponent of organization, organize your thoughts on the paper and get them to makes sense to you.