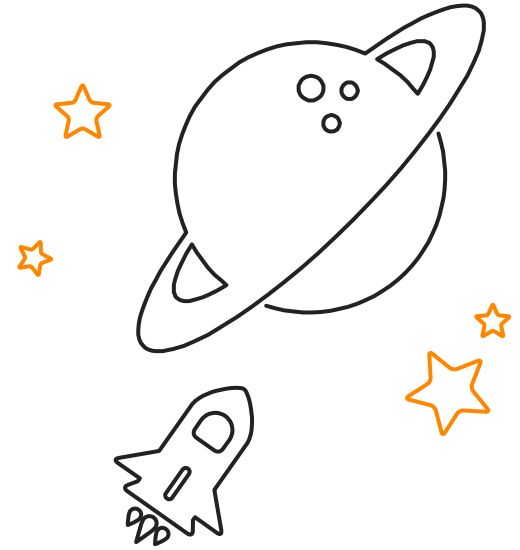


# ACADEMIC WRITING IN ENGLISH: GATHERING IDEAS

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# INVENTION

The development of ideas and arguments.  
Finding information and re-discovering  
what you already know of a topic.

## Two Methods for Gathering Ideas

- ▶ **Mindmapping**
  - ▷ Using a visual organization technique to discover connections between ideas.
- ▶ **Freewriting**
  - ▷ A way to begin writing by putting down everything you know about a topic without considering format or style.

# Mindmapping Demo

# Mindmapping: In Review

## ▶ Purpose

- ▷ To visually organize your ideas or what you know about a topic.
- ▷ To build connections between ideas.

## ▶ Tools

- ▷ Digital programs for mindmapping exist, but...
- ▷ ...pen and paper are also very effective.

## ▶ Using Mindmaps

- ▷ A great technique when you are just beginning to think about the topic you want to develop in your paper.
- ▷ Focus on listing as many ideas as you can; don't focus on making your mindmap "beautiful."

# Freewriting

- ▶ **What is freewriting?**
  - ▷ An approach to composing your first draft that quickly gets your ideas into your paper.
  - ▷ It is not meant to be writing that your final audience reads. Instead, it is meant to help you develop your ideas and arguments.
- ▶ **Rules**
  - ▷ Set a time period at first--5 minutes or so--and write for the duration of that time. Do not stop writing or make corrections.
  - ▷ If your writing moves away from your topic, do not worry because you can make changes to it later.

# Review

- ▶ Why is gathering your ideas an important stage?
- ▶ It will help you:
  - ▷ List ideas you want to write about.
  - ▷ Develop arguments about a topic.
  - ▷ Determine what kind of research you will need to conduct.
  - ▷ Get started writing earlier in the process.

Freewriting Demonstration Here



# Your Assignment

- Create a mindmap about a topic you would like to explore in an academic essay.
- After you create your mindmap, spend 10 minutes freewriting about that topic.