

The First Lecture

Pre-Writing: Getting Ready to Write

In this lecture, we will deal with:

- choosing and narrowing a topic.
- gathering ideas.
- editing ideas.

Before we go through these topics, we need to know what " a paragraph" means.

A paragraph is a group of five to ten sentences that give information about a topic.

Before you write, you must choose a topic for your paragraph.

1- Choosing and narrowing a topic

In this pre-writing stage, you decide what you are going to write about. Then you plan what you are going to write.

There are two characteristics of a good topic:

- Choose a topic that isn't too *narrow* (limited, brief). A narrow topic will not have enough ideas to write about.
- Choose a topic that isn't too *broad* [genera]). A broad topic will have too many ideas for just one paragraph. Most paragraphs are five to ten sentences.

Let's practice narrowing down a topic from the following:

- a. festival
- b. friends
- c. Cars
- d. Food

2- Brainstorming

Brainstorming is a way of gathering ideas about a topic. When you brainstorm, you write down every idea that comes to you.

- There are three types of brainstorming:



a- Making a list

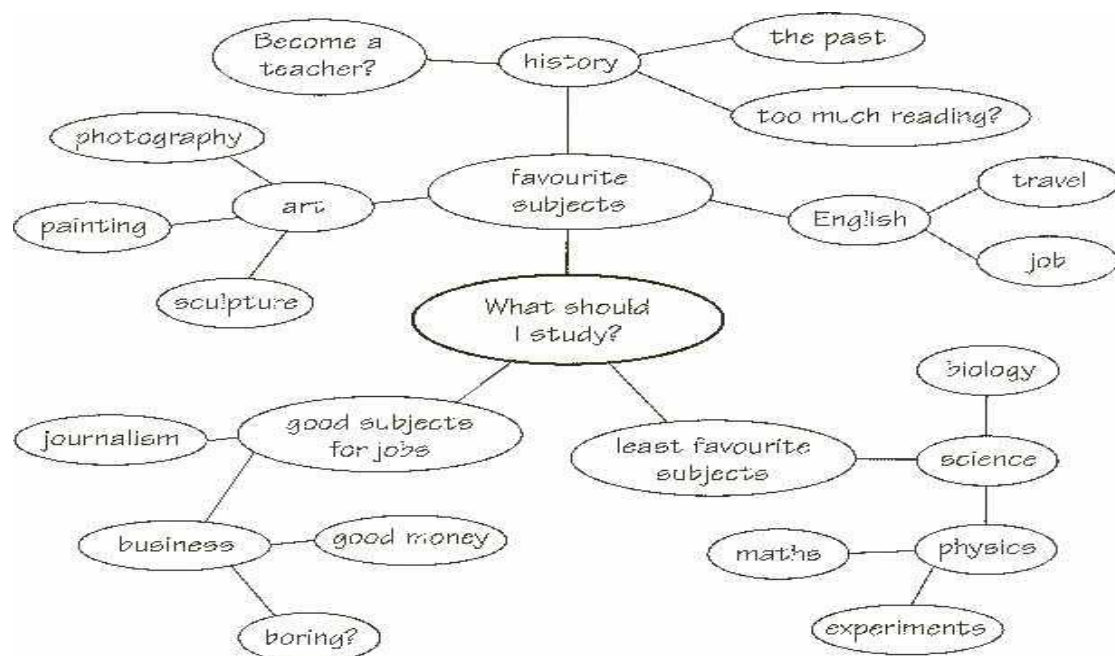
In this type, you write single words, phrases, or sentences that are connected to your topic.

b- Free Writing

When you freewrite, you write whatever comes into your head about your topic, without stopping. Most free writing exercises are short—just five to ten minutes.

c- Mapping

In a blank sheet, write the topic in the middle and circle it. After that write all the related ideas around it and circle each one. Link the topic with the ideas using lines.



Q/What's the best way to brainstorm?

There is no best method of brainstorming. Some writers like to use lists because they don't have to write complete sentences. Some writers like free writing because they can write quickly and ideas come easily. Some writers prefer mapping because they can easily see the relationship between ideas.

• **Editing ideas**

After you have gathered plenty of ideas, you will need to go back and edit them. This is the time to choose which ideas are the most interesting, and

which are the most *relevant to* your topic. Of course, you can still add new ideas if you think of something else while you are re-reading your list.