BRAIN STORM

TECHNIQUES FROM
THE UWB WRITING &
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Free Writing is a great way to set your thoughts free of inner critics and editors, and see where they take you. Starting with a topic and just writing down everything it makes you think of is a way to gauge what you already know, and what you’d like to learn. Here are some free writing tricks which might help you get started:

- Start with a blank page, and just write the subject at the top

- Try a different writing medium, like pen, pencil, marker, or word processor

- Close your eyes or turn off the lights

- Ignore quality

- If you can’t think of what to say, write that first, and just keep going.

- Time yourself

Then review what you’ve written for GEMS which can be worked into an outline.
Similar to triangulation, cubing involves studying six sides of a subject.

1. Describe
2. Compare
3. Associate
4. Analyze
5. Apply
6. Argue for & Against

{ Do each of these to your topic

Now...

- Do any of these suggest a new idea?
- Notice interactions among sides.
- Look for patterns or emerging themes.
- What peaks your interest?
TRY to ANGULATE

Triangulation involves gathering info about a subject from three difference perspectives. Look for relationships which interest you:

1. **Describe** your topic in detail
   - Components
   - Distinguishing features
   - Puzzles or mysteries
   - Similarity to / difference from other topics

2. **Trace** it through time
   - Draw a timeline
   - Create a narrative
   - What has affected your topic over time?

3. **MAP** it in relation to other ideas
   - What is it related to?
   - How has it been approached by others?
   - What fields does it draw on?
By answering the “Big Six” questions:


Then analyze your answers for interesting themes or relationships.

OR TRY TO THINK OUTSIDE

How would you write about this topic in another kind of class, like biology, math, psychology, art history, or environmental studies?

THE BOX
You can use

Similies

Put your term here

is/was/are/were like

Brainstorm a list of words which fit here. Try to think of as many as you can!

Now examine your list for new ideas, interesting patterns, or associations.
You can break the topic down into levels:

1. General
   a. Sub topic
   b. Sub topic

Or use bullets:
- To list ideas
- Anything that seems related
- You could try basing a list on the opposite of your original word or idea

Questions
Q1:
Q2:

Try this!
1. List topics in here

2. Fill in the cloud with related words or phrases

3. Cluster similar words by circling & drawing connections

4. Identity commonalities

Start inside
To generate new ideas you can play

**What if?**

Ask “what if” questions until you run out of ideas.
“What if there were no oil?”
“What if dogs could talk?”

**Or use Escapism**

1. Start with a common problem.

2. Write a list of **surreal** solutions.

3. Search for items which could be **ALTED** into viable solutions.