BRAINSTORMING & PLANNING

How Do I Get Started?
GOALS OF BRAINSTORMING

✓ Determine the goal of your writing and the audience you want to engage
✓ Examine your ideas to decide what you want to write
✓ Organize your ideas so that you have a structure to follow when you begin writing
Determine the goal of your writing

- Review the prompt and guidelines of the assignment. Then, ask yourself the following questions:
  - Do you need to inform, persuade, or tell a story?
  - Why is your topic important enough to write about?
CONSIDER THE AUDIENCE

• Which readers do you want your writing to impact?
• What ideas will engage your audience?
• What kind of language will your audience accept? (Informal or formal language?)
• Writing exists for many purposes. Some examples are listed to the right:

• When thinking of ideas to write about, keep your purpose in mind (to inform, persuade, or tell a story).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To inform</th>
<th>To persuade</th>
<th>To tell a specific story</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To evaluate</td>
<td>To analyze</td>
<td>To summarize</td>
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<tr>
<td>To examine</td>
<td>To report</td>
<td>To define</td>
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WRITE DOWN YOUR IDEAS

• What are your initial reactions to the prompt?
• Create a simple list so you can see your ideas in one place.
• Now you can see which ideas you want to explore further.
EXAMINE YOUR IDEAS

• Which ideas do you want to write about in your essay?
• Are your reactions based on personal experience or scholarly evidence?
• If you’re consulting research, do the opinions of scholars and experts confirm or challenge your ideas?
The prewriting strategies below will help you develop and organize ideas:

- **Cluster/Web:** shows how your ideas connect to each other.
- **Outlining:** organizes your ideas in a specific order.
CREATE A WEB

• Visually mapping your ideas helps you understand how they connect.
  ✓ Larger circles show main ideas.
  ✓ Smaller circles show more specific details.
• It helps to identify main ideas and supporting details.
• After creating a web, you can draft a thesis.
Based on the information in the web, a working thesis can be created:

In order to become better writers, students should embrace making and fixing their mistakes.