

Brainstorming/Generating Ideas



Class #2 at Helena High
January 23, 2018
Presented by Pamela Mencher

When do You Need to Brainstorm?



1. When you need to identify problems.
2. When you need to come up with solutions to problems.
3. When you need ideas for doing something like writing a paper, or come up with a project to explore an idea or concept.
4. When you want to create something unique or new.
5. When you want to analyze something.
6. When you want to examine a concept from different viewpoints/approaches.

How to Generate Ideas

RULE FOR BRAINSTORMING: DO NOT CRITICIZE YOUR IDEAS OR THOUGHTS. THAT COMES LATER.

1. Make a list of general or specific topics. Then brainstorm about these topics.
2. Browse the internet.
3. Go to a library and walk around looking at books and articles.
4. Go to a museum or art gallery. Walk around and write down any thoughts that occur to you.
5. Listen to your favorite music (with and without lyrics) and write down your thoughts.
6. Talk to your friends, family, teachers, etc. Write down the topics of your conversations.
7. Get a notebook and use it only for generating ideas. Carry it with you.

Writing Exercise for today:

- A. Don't worry about editing or criticizing or second-guessing yourself right now. Treat it as a free-write exercise which means just write and don't worry about it.
- B. Write in the first person voice: I, me, you, etc. as a monologue; i.e., one person speaking to someone else. Write in the present tense, as if it is happening right now.

In the following, I assign who you are and who you are talking to.

Group One:

You are a human who has been captured by aliens. Your purpose/intent is to convince them to release you.

Group A:

You are the aliens. Your purpose/intent is to communicate why this is not possible.

Homework: Due January 29. Bring it to class to turn it in.

1. Go to the General Mercantile store on Last Chance Gulch and wander around. Sit at a table and listen to what people are saying. Write down snatches of what you hear. Write down what objects attracted your attention and why. (Spend one half hour there doing this at the Mercantile., maybe have a cup of tea while you write.)
2. Guidelines for this second assignment:
 - I. Just free write. Don't edit yourself.
 - II. Write for 20 minutes.
 - III. Write it as a monologue in the present tense, as if it is happening now.
 - IV. Write it in the first person voice. "I, me, you, us, etc."
 - V. Type it.
1. Here are five ideas. Write a **short monologue about one of them** using the guidelines above. For extra credit, write two.
 - A. Your best friend has told someone something personal about you. You find out. You confront your best friend about it.
 - B. You are being let go at your job. You decide to ask your boss for a second chance. Write what you plan to say to your boss.
 - C. You have homework due. Something happened that make it not possible to turn it in on time. What do you tell your teacher about why you didn't get it done?
 - D. Your parents are not happy about something you did. Why did you do it? Your parents sit you down and ask you to explain yourself. Write down what you tell them in your defense.
 - E. You did something stupid that embarrassed you. You tell your best friend about it. What did you do and how do you tell your best friend?