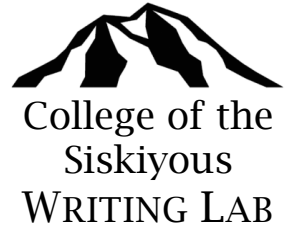


PREWRITING: STEP 1 IN THE WRITING PROCESS



INTRODUCTION: Prewriting is the first step of the writing process. If you take this step seriously, each step that follows will be less difficult and time-consuming. Plus, prewriting can be fun.

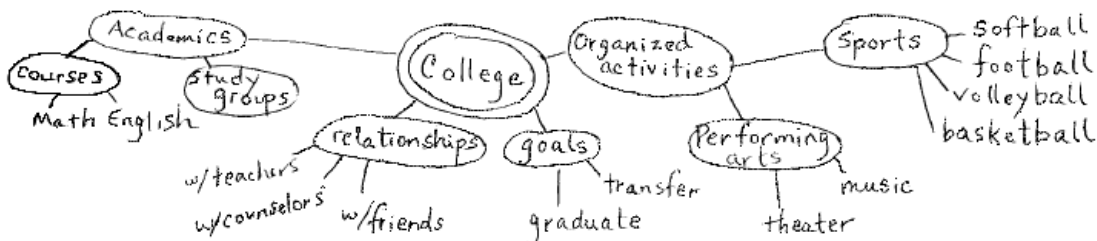
During this step, the writer does the following:

- Brainstorms his/her topic
- Collects ideas for content material
- Considers organization of content material

Prewriting Techniques:

There are many prewriting techniques. Although one technique may not work for you, it may work for another writer. Experiment with each technique to figure out which one best suits your style and purpose.

- **Freewriting:** Jotting down ideas about your topic in rough sentences and phrases. In freewriting, the writer doesn't worry about grammar or punctuation or organization. When freewriting, the writer rarely lifts his/her pencil from the paper. The goal is to write down anything that comes to mind on the topic.
- **Questioning:** Generating ideas and details by asking questions about the subject. Many writers begin by asking who, what, when, where, and why questions about their subject/topic. For example, if your topic has something to do with the high cost of gasoline, you could begin by asking:
 - Why is the cost of gasoline so high?
 - When did the cost of gasoline jump?
 - Where is gasoline the most/least expensive?
- **Making a List:** Collecting ideas and details that relate to your subject (brainstorming). In list-making, the writer jots down all ideas that come to mind.
- **Clustering:** Creating a visual map of ideas on the paper. The writer begins with his/her topic in the center of the page and draws lines or arrows from that topic to ideas/details. Example:



- **Outlining:** This step usually comes after the writer has used one of the above techniques to brainstorm his/her topic. When outlining, the writer begins to organize thoughts and ideas by grouping them together in a logical sequence.