

What to Write

Finding an Idea

- Inspirations around you
 - Daily routines, everyday situations
 - Childhood or adult memories
 - Books you have read, TV shows or movies you have seen
 - News headlines or interesting articles
 - Snippets of conversations you have overheard
 - Watching people
 - Song lyrics
 - Looking at pictures or photos of people or places
 - Dreams or your wildest fantasies
- Things you are knowledgeable about
 - Work experiences
 - Community experiences
 - Topics you have researched

Building the Idea

- Decide on the topic to write about.
- Brainstorm the topic
 - Think about everything that might be helpful to write about the topic.
 - Ask yourself questions about the character(s) involved, the scene, the setting, and the premise.
 - Talk with someone else about your ideas.
- Clustering strategy
 - Make a visual map of ideas related to the chosen topic.
 - Start with a word that is central to the story idea, put it in the middle of a piece of paper, circle it.
 - Write words around it that occur to you as you think about the main word; circle them.
 - Connect the circles with lines.
- Looping strategy
 - Free write on one of the key words from clustering for 5-10 minutes.
 - Read that piece for interesting ideas, phrases, or sentences; circle them.
 - Free write on one of the circled words.
 - This gives you more ideas for the project.
- Mapping
 - Sketch the main settings: a town, a house, a room.
 - Use enough details to make the place feel real to the reader.