| ***Thinking Outside the Box***  The strategy of thinking outside the box can be used to get different viewpoints on a topic that can then spark inspiration of new concepts that can be incorporated into your original ideas.  **Example:** If I need to write a paper on the topic of culture for a communications class, I might use the biological definition of a culture to generate some new ideas. For instance, I could think of the Petri dishes in a biology class that are used to *culture* substances like bacteria for growth and examination. By looking at culture through a biological lens, we can think of it as a way for things to grow, change and even develop into something completely new.  **Strategies:** | Water Pollution  Icebergs Melting  Global Warming  This strategy allows you to generate a bunch of different ideas and then go back and create connections and organize all of the information. You are going to start by writing your topic in the center of the paper. Then, drawing lines from the center topic, write down related ideas at the end of those lines. From there you can expand on the related ideas by drawing lines from those and writing down other ideas that connect to the related ideas.  ***Mapping/Webbing***  **Strategies:** | Air Pollution  Pollution | Brainstorming  This pamphlet will discuss what brainstorming helps a writer to do, how to use brainstorming when you’ve got too much or not enough information about a topic, as well as a variety of strategies to choose from. Use this pamphlet to figure out what works best for you! |
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| ***You’ve got too much:*** If you find yourself in a situation where there is too much information in your brain to the point of chaos, you can use brainstorming techniques such as mapping/webbing and journalistic questions to organize your thoughts. Brainstorming in this situation forces your brain to focus on concreate words or ideas that you can then organize into coherent thoughts that flow together.  ***You don’t have enough:*** If you are struggling to figure out what or how to write about a particular topic, you might consider using strategies like freewriting, bulleting, and thinking outside the box in order to get your brain juices flowing. By brainstorming, you are getting your thoughts moving with your topic in mind, and eventually inspiration will take hold and ideas will start to flow out onto the paper. | ***Freewriting***  This strategy allows your thoughts to flow without any restrictions or judgements. The point is to write whatever comes to mind, ignoring things like spelling, grammar, punctuation.  **Example:** If I need to write a paper on global warming, I might use freewriting to write the following, “I need to write about global warming and I don’t know what to focus on but I don’t get why some people still don’t believe it is real like haven’t they seen how much rain we got today like it just rained and rained and I bet there was flooding in some places and what about all of the water pollution that there is out there today” – There are ideas in this free write such as nonbelievers, weather effects, and pollution. These all could be tied to global warming and work as subtopics within a paper. | ***Journalistic Questions***  The “Big Six” questions that a journalist relies on while researching for their story are:   * Where? * Why? * How? * Who? * What? * When?   After answering each of these questions, look at your responses. There may be questions that you had a lot to say for and others you may have written only a sentence. You also may notice connections of ideas between different responses. This information may help you to find a focus for a paper (if you had a lot to say for a couple of questions), or it may help you organize your ideas by seeing the connections in your responses.  ***Bulleting***  In this strategy, you will write down a list of words or phrases that fall under a particular topic. The list can be based on:   * The general topic * Things relating to a thesis claim * The opposite of the original idea   The above is an example of how the bulleting strategy should look. This strategy will help get all of your ideas out on paper. |
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**Strategies:**

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**What to do when…**