

ESSAY PREWRITING

Jotting down ideas is an effective way to get information from your head onto the paper and to begin organizing it so you may effectively use it in a paragraph or paper.

After you have decided on a topic, jot down everything that occurs to you about that topic. Do not worry about where, if or how the information will fit in the finished product. You are moving information and ideas from your head to the paper. You will organize and eliminate ideas that do not fit after you have made a list.

Below are two examples of prewriting lists.

Topic 1:
How to Make Homemade Ice Cream
cream children
sugar birthday
eggs ways to serve
salt ice
mixer recipe
party fattening
my favorite

Topic 2:
Insecurity of Married Teenagers
immaturity
poor jobs
lack of money
children
ego
lack of experience
parents around
dependence on parents
social restrictions
over domineering parents

After you have read the list, check the items you might use in a paper. Be sure that the items you use fit the given topics. To utilize words on the list, try the following:

1. Form more complete ideas from words on the list.
2. Combine similar terms to form possible paragraphs.
3. Break down broad terms to even more specific ideas.