



Pre-Writing

Before great brilliance, there must be
chaos.

Slicing Chaos

Pre-writing actually has three separate stages.

1. What do I know?

2. What do I think about it?

3. How do I organize my thinking to make sense to someone else?

What do I know?

Stimulate ideas by:

✧ Talking

✧ Doodling

✧ Reading

✧ Viewing

✧ Writing

No holds barred at this point. Help students find the best fit.

What do I think?

Collect information by:

✧ Brainstorm

✧ Web

✧ Listing

✧ Question/answer

✧ Free write

✧ Further reading

How do I organize my thinking to make sense to someone else?

- ✧ Outline
- ✧ Graphic organizer
- ✧ Note cards
- ✧ Separate sheets of paper

-Teacher provided

-My own

So what if I don't pre-write?

Tommy doesn't like to pre-write. Such a waste of time. He skips it and starts to write his draft. He gets 2 paragraphs done no sweat. He starts the 3rd and...waits...and waits...and looks at the ceiling...and looks at the paper. Twenty minutes go by and he's still on the beginning of the 3rd paragraph. He doesn't know how to go forward. Tommy doesn't want to throw out the 2 paragraphs he already has and start fresh, but he can't figure out what to do next. He sits for another 20 minutes trying to solve this. All because he wanted to save 10-15 minutes.

Moral of the story

Your brain is going to pre-write whether you do it at the beginning or you do it at the end. Put the time in at the beginning. It's the fastest way to make sure you have enough material/knowledge/legs for writing on the topic.

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