



Invention Tips

WHAT IS THE INVENTION PROCESS?

“During invention, you discover what interests you about your subject and consider what ideas to develop in your essay” (Kirszner and Mandel 27).

ADVICE

During this process, you should consider your purpose, audience, genre, length, and occasion. Meaning, you should ask yourself:

- Why am I writing this? What’s the goal?
- Who am I writing this for? What do they already know about my topic?
- What kind of writing is this? Is it formal, informal, informational, argumentative? What style of writing is appropriate?
- How long does it need to be? Can I comprehensively cover my entire topic in that length?

Use these questions to help you focus your writing and ensure you are meeting the goals of the assignment.

STRATEGIES FOR INVENTION



READING & ANNOTATING TEXTS

This is essential for deepening your understanding of a topic, learning from the insights and research of others, and expanding your perspective (Hacker and Sommers 6).

ASKING QUESTIONS

Act like a journalist. Ask yourself who, what, where, when, why and how to help you discover important facts and details (Hacker and Sommers 6).

BRAINSTORMING & FREEWRITING

These strategies can help you figure out what you already know about the topic and what questions you still have. Without worrying about spelling or grammar, use bullets or sentences to write down anything that relates to your topic (Hacker and Sommers 6).

KEEPING A JOURNAL

A journal allows you to keep track of your informal, exploratory, or experimental writing. In a journal, you can collect and review all of your brainstorming like questions, freewrites, and annotations (Hacker and Sommers 6).

CLUSTERING & MAPPING

These strategies offer a visual way of arranging your ideas to see how your ideas connect and what ideas might need more explanation.