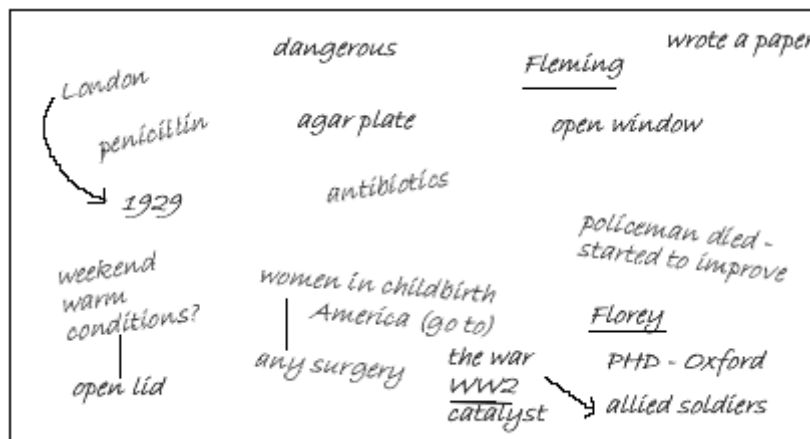


## Mind mapping and brainstorming

Brainstorming is a technique for recalling what you know about a topic. Mind mapping can then be used to work out the relationship between those points and ideas. When you set down your ideas visually in this way, you can make connections and develop greater understanding of information. It is a good way to begin planning for an assignment, essay, research topic or oral presentation.

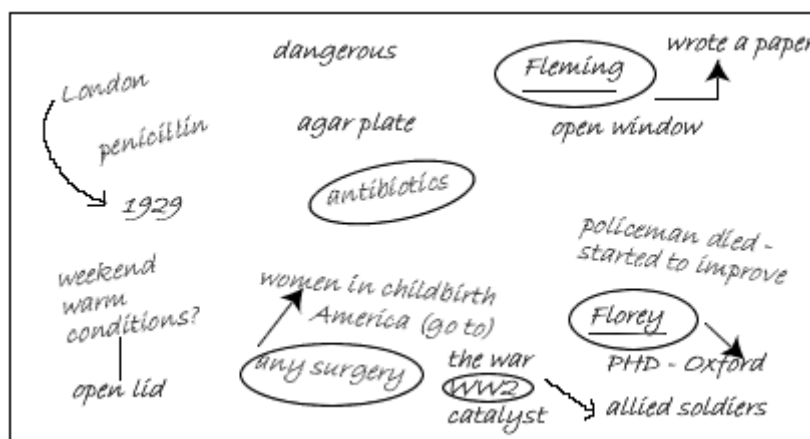
### 1. How to brainstorm

- Write your topic or subject on a large piece of paper.
- Quickly write down anything that comes to mind. Work freely. Try not to categorise at this stage.
- Keep writing until you can't think of anything else
- Write in point form



### 2. Organise the brainstorm

Next, go through all of your points, crossing out those that are not useful and taking note of those that are most important for your topic. From this information you can take the relevant points to make a mind map.



### 3. Mind maps

Drawing a mind map involves gathering in all your ideas about a particular concept and organising them into a pattern that shows the relationships between the ideas. You can order the information into important points and less important points. You can compare and contrast different points, and show problems with their solutions and causes with their effects. Mind maps let you see the big picture of a topic as well as the details that make up the picture.

#### How to draw the mind map

- Write the topic in a circle in the centre of a piece of paper (landscape position).
- For each of the main points, draw arms out from the circle.
- Write the key words of the main point along each or at the end.
- Draw smaller arms out from the main arms and write the sub-points that relate to each main point.
- Continue with smaller arms if you have other points or examples for the sub-points.

#### Four uses of mind maps

1. Use detailed mind maps as tools for organising and planning assignments.
2. Draw more involved mind maps complete with diagrams and colour as permanent records of topics or courses.
3. Draw quick, sketchy mind maps to help you revise your last class or lecture.
4. Use mind maps to take notes in a lecture or while reading.

#### The mind map

