

Brainstorming as a Means of Prewriting

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Below you will find several facts about a topic. After you have read these facts, spend about 15 minutes alone or with a partner or team members brainstorming, freewriting or making lists of everything that comes to mind that relates directly or indirectly to the topic. You can use page 2 of the Brainstorming Study Aid or your own paper. Your brainstorm list may include additional facts, as well as your own experiences and ideas, and questions about the topic. Write everything down. Do not reject any ideas. You should come up with at least 30 items.

When you have finished brainstorming, read through your results. The items you have listed have the potential to become content in an essay about the topic. Using the instructions on page 1 of the Brainstorming Study Aid, group your brainstorming ideas into clusters, write sentences to describe the theme of the clusters, and organize the sentences in a logical order.

DRUNK DRIVING STATISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES

- 1) About one-third of all drivers arrested or convicted of driving while intoxicated or driving under the influence of alcohol are repeat offenders.
- 2) On average someone is killed by a drunk driver every 45 minutes. In 2008, an estimated 11,773 people died in drunk driving related crashes—a decline of 9.8 percent from the 13,041 drunk driving related fatalities of 2007.
- 3) Of the approximately 4.2 million people aged 16 to 20 in 2002 and 2003 who reported DUI involving alcohol or illicit drugs in the past year, about four percent (169,000 people) indicated they had been arrested and booked for DUI.
- 4) US purchase surveys show that 40 to 90 percent of outlets sell to underage buyers and that this stems from low and inconsistent levels of enforcement against adults who sell or provide alcohol.
- 5) Over 1.46 million drivers were arrested in 2006 for driving under the influence of alcohol or narcotics. This is an arrest rate of 1 for every 139 licensed drivers in the United States.
- 6) In 2001, more than half a million people were injured in crashes where police reported that alcohol was present — an average of one person injured almost every minute.
- 7) One arrest is made for driving under the influence for every 772 episodes of driving within two hours of drinking and for every 88 episodes of driving over the illegal limit in the United States.
- 8) Only 17 percent of impaired drivers who are injured in crashes are charged and convicted. Eleven percent are charged and not convicted and 72 percent are never charged. (The source of these statistics is Mothers Against Drunk Driving, www.madd.org)

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THE CHANGING STATE OF MARRIAGE

- 1) Research by the Pew Research Center and Time Magazine shows that marriage in the United States is not as necessary in the 21st century as it was just fifty years ago in the mid-20th century.
- 2) The U.S. divorce rate was higher in 1980 than it is today (in 2011). According to *USA Today*, “the U.S. divorce rate is 17.7 per 1,000 married women, down from 22.6 in 1980.”
- 3) The number of marriages in the United States has dropped fifty percent since 1970, “from 76.5 per 1,000 unmarried women to 39.9,” according to a report from the National Marriage Project at Rutgers University.
- 4) The Pew Research Center and Time Magazine report that there was a 13 percent increase in cohabitating couples (couples living together without marriage) from 2009 to 2010. The researchers attribute this to the negative impact of the U.S. economic recession.
- 5) More than 75 percent of Americans still believe that “being married” is an important value, according to National Marriage Project data.
- 6) “From the 1970s to the 2000s, the percentage of American adults expressing the view that divorce should become more difficult to obtain fell from 53 to 40 percent among the least educated, stayed constant at 50 percent among the moderately educated, and rose from 36 to 48 percent among the highly educated” (National Marriage Project).
- 7) Author Anjula Razdan states in her essay “What’s Love Got to Do with It?” that arranged marriages – marriages decided by family members rather than marriage partners – were quite common in Europe until the mid-19th century. Razdan said arranged marriages were a “way of forging alliances, ensuring inheritances and stitching together the social, political and religious needs of a community.”
- 8) Razdan notes that *Psychology Today* editor Robert Epstein describes arranged marriages as an “enduring form of love because they promote compatibility and rational deliberation ahead of passionate impulse.”
- 9) Online dating relies on the computer’s ability to sort and match people and their interests based on programming factors rather than human emotions, according to Razdan.

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MEDICAL CARE FOR NEWBORNS

- 1) The medical field that focuses on the medical care of newborn infants is called neonatology. It is a subspecialty of pediatrics.
- 2) The primary patients in this field are newborn babies who need special care due to prematurity, low birth weight, birth defects, sepsis or slow growth while in the womb.
- 3) This is a relatively new field of medicine, having developed during the 20th century. Most of the advances in this field have occurred since the 1960s, when mechanical ventilation increased survival rates for newborns.
- 4) A neonatologist holds a M.D. (Medical Doctor) or D.O. (Doctor of Osteopathy) degree. The neonatologist receives training as a pediatrician and then completes additional training in neonatology.
- 5) This special care of newborns may take months or years to manage the health problems that occurred early in life.
- 6) Premature babies often do not have well-developed body systems. The lungs are one of the last organs to develop in the womb, and premature infants often spend the first days and weeks of their lives on a ventilator that helps them to breathe.
- 7) Modern neonatal intensive care involves sophisticated measurement of temperature, respiration, cardiac function, oxygenation, and brain activity. This care has allowed babies as small as two pounds and born three months early to have a 90 percent chance of survival.
- 8) Treatments may include fluids and nutrition through intravenous catheters, oxygen supplementation, mechanical ventilation support, and medications.
- 9) Scientist Isaac Newton was small enough to fit in a quart mug when he was born in 1643.

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NATIONAL PARKS IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS

- 1) The Rocky Mountains are a major mountain range in western North America. They stretch more than 1900 miles from northern British Columbia to New Mexico in the United States.
- 2) The Continental Divide located in the Rockies designates the line at which waters flow either to the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans. Waters from the Rockies also flow to rivers that flow into the Arctic Ocean.
- 3) Tourism is a key industry in some parts of the Rockies. People travel to parks in the United States and Canada to see beautiful scenery, hike, backpack, fish and camp and to take part in winter recreational activities such as skiing.
- 4) The number of people traveling to Yellowstone National Park, which is located in the Rockies in the state of Wyoming, exceeds two million visitors each year. This can create traffic jams, crowding, and stress among visitors and park employees.
- 5) The number of people visiting Yellowstone also has an impact on wildlife. Visitors often feed the bears, which poses a risk of injury and death. Park rangers discourage feeding of wildlife and make the effort to keep trash collection areas covered and to educate visitors against feeding the animals.
- 6) People who visit parks often damage natural vegetation and geological structures by stepping on plants, digging up plants, collecting rocks and plants, and driving their vehicles in places where vehicles don't belong.
- 7) Nearly three million visitors travel to Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado each year. People who hike and backpack in this park have to agree to leave no trace of their passage or pay fines for littering and destruction of property.
- 8) The parks are managed by the National Park Service.