



Brainstorm as soon as possible after receiving the assignment. An effective brainstorm session lasts 15-50 minutes. If the results are minimal, you're probably not brainstorming long or effectively enough.

It's essential to not be inhibited or self-conscious during brainstorming. Don't censor your ideas and guesses. At the outset, the freedom to think in many directions at once is important.

Finally, if you find that the assignment is unclear and prevents you from brainstorming successfully, consult the Writing Center or seek clarification from the instructor, but only after studying the assignment *as fully as possible*. Ask specific questions that will clarify your central task.

Good luck brainstorming!