

Prewriting



A word cloud of prewriting techniques is centered within a large green oval. The words are arranged in a cluster, with some oriented horizontally and others vertically. The words include: 'ideas' (green), 'freewriting' (blue), 'lists' (orange, oriented vertically), 'questioning' (orange), 'brainstorming' (orange), 'mindmapping' (blue), 'audience' (yellow), 'purpose' (light blue), 'clustering' (pink), and 'journals' (purple, oriented vertically).

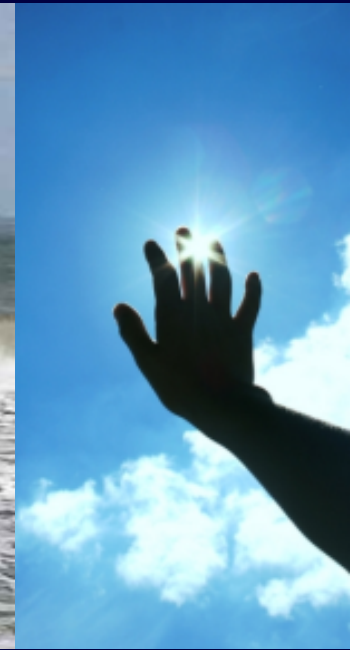
ideas
freewriting
lists
questioning
brainstorming
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audience
purpose
clustering
journals

Brainstorming is the process we use when we try to collect our thoughts on a topic. Do not worry about making mistakes or, if the ideas seem stupid at first, just let them rain down onto a piece of paper or a computer screen. It can be done with a friend, or a group of friends, but you can do it on your own as well.



Imagine this is your essay title...

" The use of fossil fuels, such as coal and oil, belongs to the past."



It can be a good idea to *keep a journal* as you do your research on the internet and in the library. Then you can reread it and circle topics and examples that you wrote down.

Fossil Fuels Essay notes on Solar Energy

High cost of capturing solar energy is diminishing
Robert Fitz-Paal, who studies CSP technology at the German Aerospace Centre in Cologne. He predicts that the cost of CSP will halve over the next 10 years

Concentrated solar power = (CSP)

(05 May 2007) From New Scientist Print Edition

Jim Giles

Advantages of solar energy

- Greatly reduced pollution
- Greatly reduced contribution to global warming
- Infinite energy resource
- Reliability
- Health and safety benefits
- Local application
- Low running costs
- Falling production costs
- Reduced maintenance costs

www.alternate-energy-sources.com

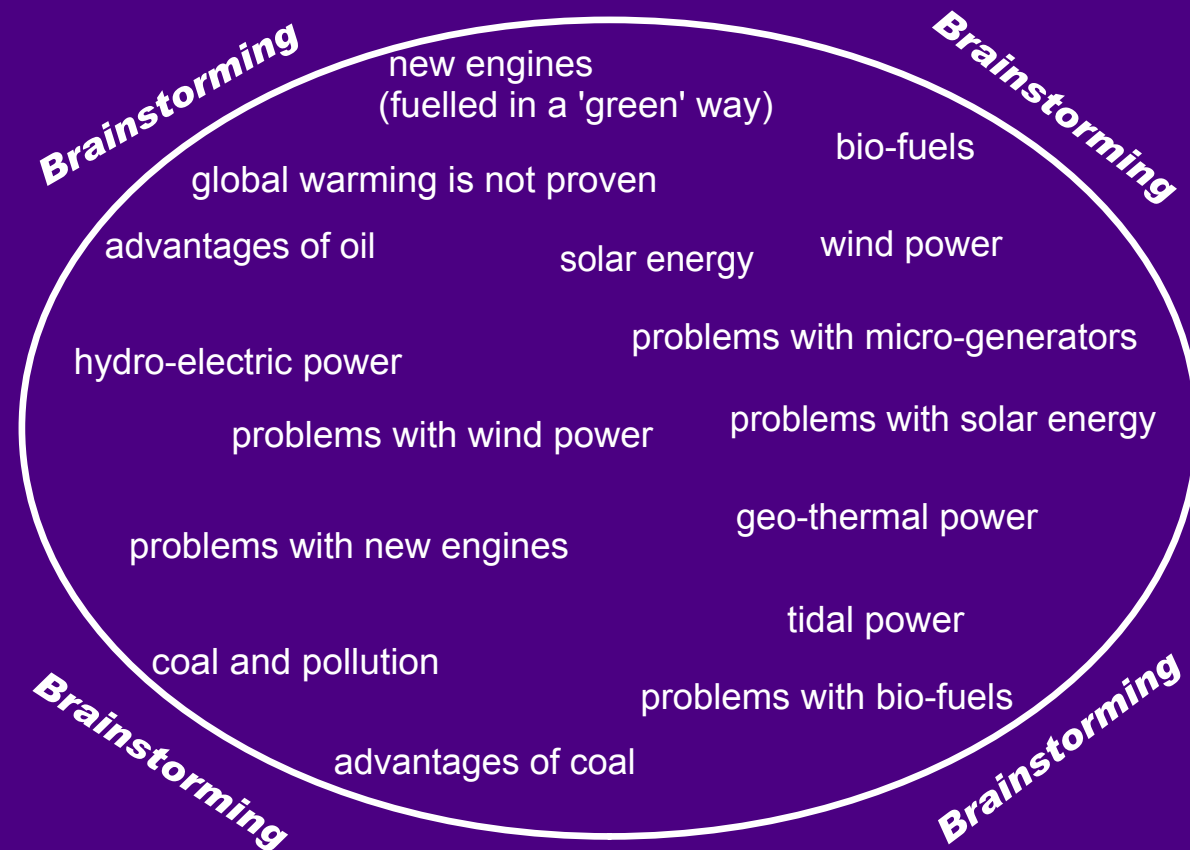
Dr Erik Leipoldt

Disadvantages of solar energy

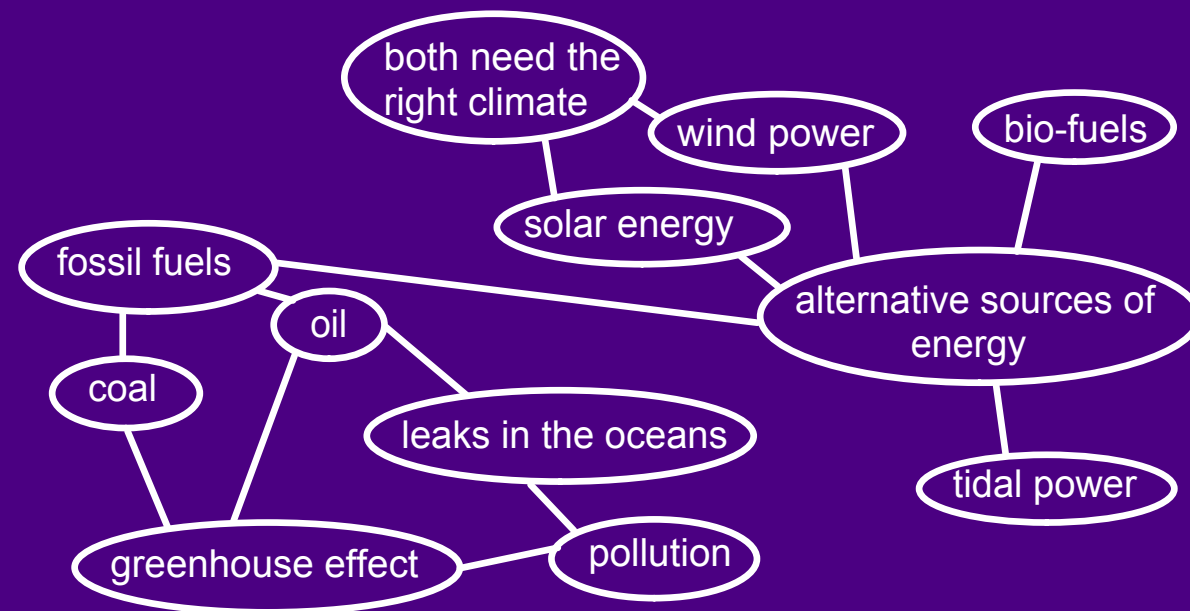
- 1 It is cheaper to clean up the current polluting coal and gas emissions than it is to invest in a whole new industry of solar power
- 2 In comparison with fossil fuels, sunlight is a weak energy source because the radiation strength is "diluted" by the time the rays reach earth
- 3 Sunlight is not a constant on anyone area of the earth's surface

Gemma Wiseman <http://www.helium.com>

At first, when you are *brainstorming*, you just put down all the ideas you have collected from your reading, your lectures and your discussions with friends...



Or use *mindmapping* by writing the central topic in a circle in the centre of a piece of paper; then write your ideas in 'bubbles' connected by lines to show the links between them...



Or you can try *freewriting* to get your ideas flowing. When you freewrite you don't worry about making mistakes, you just keep going. You normally write for five or ten minutes, just letting your mind jump from one idea to another...

there are other types of energy like solar and wind, and tidal can store lots of energy but not as much as comes from oil and coal. Coal causes terrible smog and the oil leaks in the ocean from oil - POLLUTION- threat to future generations global warming greenhouse effect new engines use biofuels but we need land for growing food in these countries Don't forget hydro-electric power!

Or you can try *questioning* yourself on the topic. Think of the question words: Who? What? When? Where? Why? How?

Fossil Fuels Essay: Questioning

Who? The government should take action to fund research into alternative energy sources, but also all of us can take action to limit the effects of global warming.

What? Energy: the sources of which can be traditional fossil fuels or alternative renewable energy sources.

When? As soon as possible, action must be taken if we are to save the planet for future generations.

Where? All over the world, but it is in the poorest countries that the effects of our excessive use of fossil fuels is felt through global warming.

Why? To save the planet!

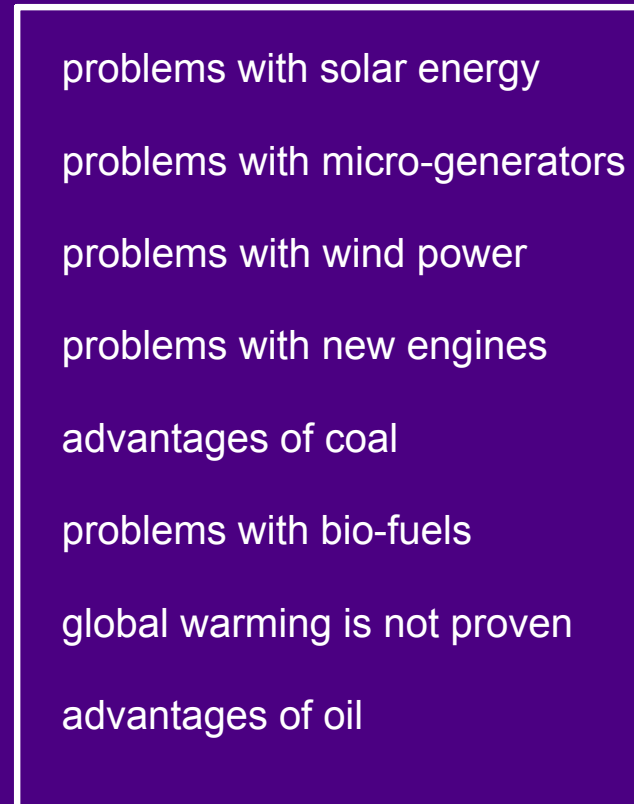
How? Through investing in research into alternative sustainable sources of energy.

Then try organising your ideas into *lists*. Do they support or oppose the idea in the essay title?

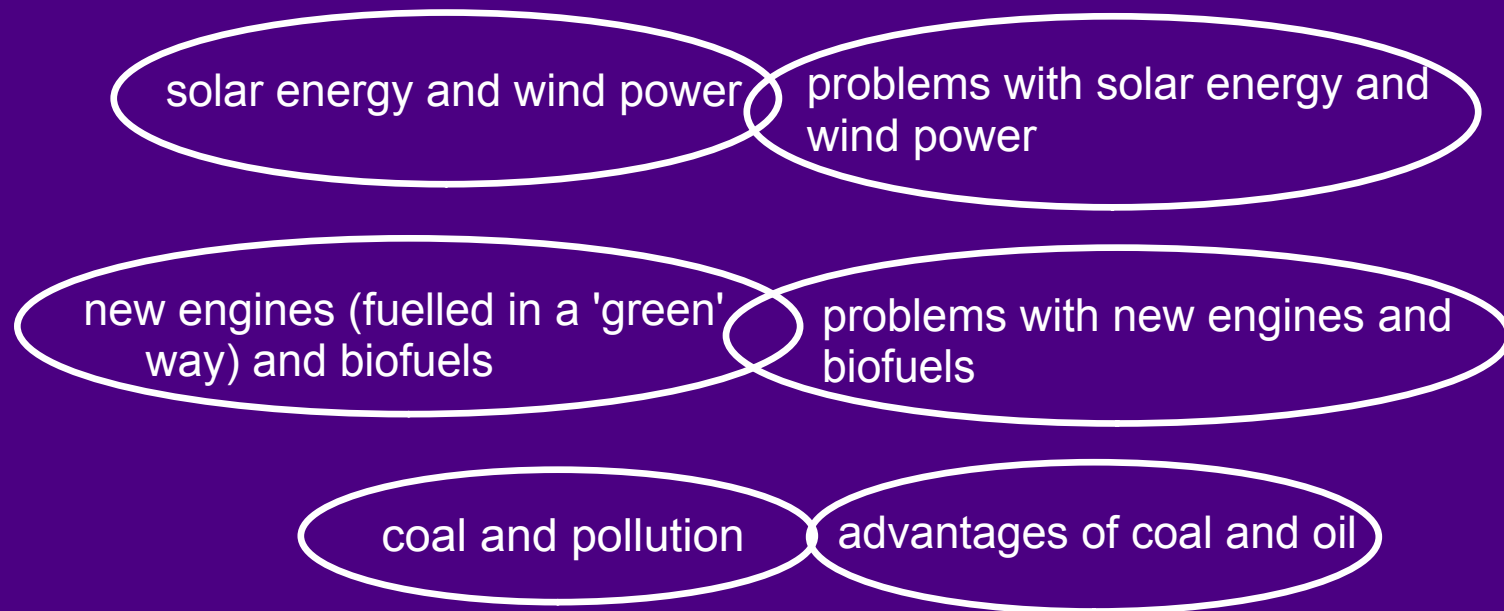
Points for



Points against



Think about your word limit, you probably will not be able to include all the points you first thought of. So, choose those you are most interested in and *cluster* similar ideas together...



As this is a discursive essay, you will need a *thesis statement*. Once you have the topics for each paragraph, have decided an order for your paragraphs and have adopted a position, you can write a plan...

Fossil Fuels Essay: Plan

Introduction: give background information, define 'fossil fuels', *thesis statement* - "*fossil fuels should belong to the past because of damage to the environment and all governments should fund research into alternative sources of energy*"

Paragraph 1 : advantages of coal and oil (economic statistics) but both can cause great pollution (environmental facts and figures)

Paragraph 2 : advantages of solar and wind power but problems with them too (dependent on climate +limited quantity of power produced)

Paragraph 3 : advantages of bio-fuels and new engines (fuelled in a 'green' way) but problems with production of bio-fuels (land needed for food) and new engines

Conclusion: review main points, restate thesis statement