INVENTION: BRAINSTORMING TOPICS

For many of us, the most difficult part of composing is knowing what to write. Here are some strategies for coming up with a topic.

**Brainstorming**

1) Write down numbers 1 through 20 on the left side of a notebook page.
2) Now, list 20 topics you want to write about. What interests you? What’s going on in the news? In your life?

**Authority Lists**

This invention tool helps us identify our own expertise, that is, what we know well and could write about with authority. You might make a list of:

- skills you have that not everyone has
- hobbies you have that not everyone has
- special roles you’ve played (Big Brother/Big Sister, camp counselor, manager, aunt/uncle, etc.)
- things you’ve taught to others
- things you know that not everyone knows
- things you’ve visited or witnessed that not everyone has
- people you know that others might like to know about

**Inquiry Lists**

You can also list things that you don’t know much about, but would like to. These are topics that might lead you to some interesting research:

- Skills you don’t have but wish you did
- Hobbies you wish you knew more about it
- Special roles others play that you’re interested in
- Things others teach that you’d want to learn
- Things others have visited that you’d like to as well
- People you don’t know but wish you did
