

## Brainstorming

### ▷ What is brainstorming?

Brainstorming is a way of gathering ideas about a topic. Think of a storm: thousands of drops of rain, all coming down together. Now, imagine thousands of ideas “raining” down onto your paper! When you brainstorm, write down every idea that comes to you. Don't worry now about whether the ideas are good or silly, useful or not. You can decide that later. Right now, you are gathering as many ideas as you can.

You will learn three types of brainstorming in this unit: *making a list*, *freewriting*, and *mapping*.



### ▷ Making a list

Write single words, phrases, or sentences that are connected to your topic. Look at this list a student made when brainstorming ideas to write about her topic, “What should I study in college?”



history—learning about the past  
 math (too difficult, not interesting?)  
 What job do I want later?  
 English for work? Travel?  
 writing?  
 science—biology, chemistry  
 I don't like physics!  
 journalism  
 I like reading—literature?  
 art—drawing, painting, sculpture  
 photography?  
 studying / homework  
 friends / social life

## 2 Work with a partner or small group. Choose one of these topics. List as many ideas as you can in five minutes.

- a. teenage fashions
- b. social networking
- c. driving a motorcycle

## 3 Work alone. Choose a topic from exercise 1 on page 5, and list as many ideas as you can in five minutes.