Brainstorming
Blinn College - Bryan Writing Center – Online Worksheet

This worksheet will help you think about and generate ideas for a writing topic. Write your response to each of the following in the space below:

**Generating a Topic – “I don’t know what to write about!”**
1. Are there any instructor restrictions on or requirements for topics? What are they?

2. What are some things you are interested in?
   - Major?
   - Hobbies (sports, music, etc.)?
   - Work?
   - Causes (environment, animals, etc.)?
   - Political concerns?
   - Current events?

3. Look at the list you made above. Which of those topics fits the assignment, is interesting to you, and has enough available research? Write it below.

4. Is the topic too broad (i.e. abortion)? How can you make it more specific (Unborn Victims of Violence Act)?

**Refining a Topic – “Okay, I have a topic – now what?”**
1. Is there a controversy associated with this topic? If so, briefly outline the nature and history of this controversy below.

2. Who cares about this topic? Why? Should other people care?
3. What opinion do you have on this issue?

4. What are the other stances on this issue?

5. In relation to this topic and issue, what do you want to know more about?

6. Where could you find more information on this topic?

7. What key terms would you use to do research on the topic? List as many as you can think of. Use these while you are conducting research.

8. As you research, you will probably think of more ideas about your topic. Use the space below to write them down.