

PRE-WRITING

A workshop to help begin your writing journey

IF, AT FIRST, YOU DON'T
SUCCEED, TRY AND TRY AGAIN



BRAINSTORM

Listing

Clustering

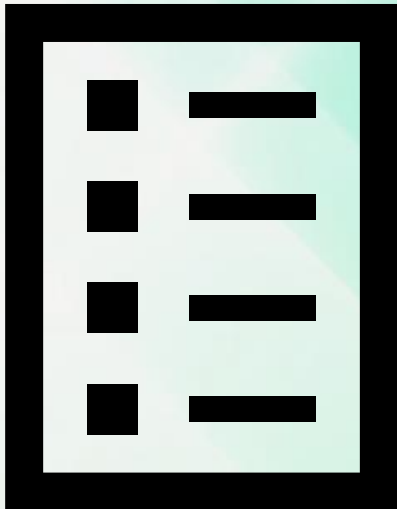
Freewriting

Looping

The six journalist questions₃

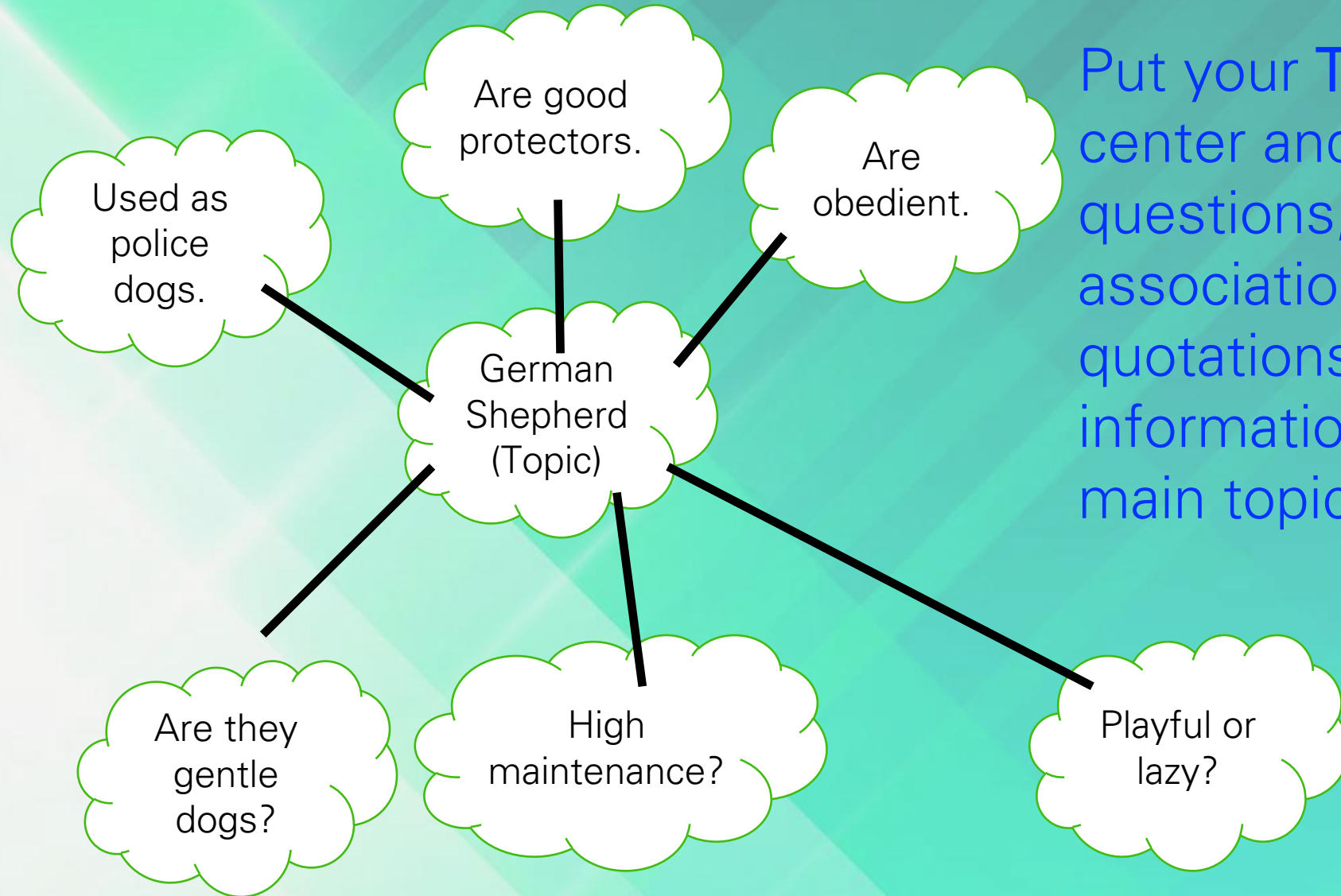
LISTING

Write down in a list format everything that comes to mind. For example, if I was writing about different breeds of dogs, I might write:



- German Shepard
- Golden Retriever
- Cocker Spaniel
- Border Collie

CLUSTERING / BUBBLES



Put your **TOPIC** in the center and create links to questions, ideas, associations, facts, quotations, and any other information pertinent to the main topic.



FREEWRITING

The goal is to write without the restrictions of punctuation, grammar, or spelling: suspend your editor for 3 – 4 minutes. Generate a prompt and write. You must keep your fingers moving. Sometimes, the skill is called “free association” or “stream of consciousness.” No worries, just write what comes to mind!



*Prompt: Why do I want a German Shepherd?
(timer, ready, go!): I want a German Shepherd because they r cuti and I don't know why else but I'm supposed to keep writing I guess because they are good protectors and I love the way their fur feels though they are slobbery....*

When you review your freewriting, you will identify important and interesting details to include in your edited, more formal writing.

LOOPING

Like freewriting, after writing for five to ten minutes, find the idea you want to write about and free-write again, specifically on that idea (topic).

Freewriting:

The first thing that came to mind when I was assigned the topic of choosing a dog breed was of many dogs like the Pitbull, Rottweiler, Golden Retriever, and German Shepherds.



German shepherds are cute and overprotective, They are used by the police so they must be good as dogs. They aren't too big, but they aren't too small. I heard they are expensive, especially if purebreds. I heard they need to be worked on a lot like discipline needed to be infused in them a lot. I can always take them to a daycare of some sort to be disciplined.

Continue to loop, as necessary.

JOURNALIST QUESTIONS

WHO? Who is the best fit to take care of a German Shepard?

WHAT? What other different breeds are there in the Shepard family?

WHEN? When do I start training a German Shepard?

WHERE? Where can I buy a purebred German Shepard?

WHY? Why would a person get a German Shepard?

HOW? How do I train a German Shepard?



RESEARCH

You can research any topic, and you should explore as widely as possible: you never know which detail, image, pamphlet, website, book, video, or quotation will spark your interest or be important to what you are writing.

Begin broadly with your topic and then chase whatever catches your attention. Google or Google Scholar are great places to start.

Keep in mind the goal is to orient yourself to important information, context, images, concepts, and ideas, so annotate as you explore.

The places you explore and the information you need to find depends on the nature of your assignment or writing goal.

Academic research essays are different than response essays, and the way you explore will need to be flexible and focused.

*Information in the presentation
referenced, borrowed, or
condensed from the following
places:*

ENMU-R Staff!

ENMU-R Tutors!

Prewriting Strategies- KU