**Writing Exercise #3**

Invention: Ways of generating ideas on a topic

**Spring 2010**

**Please refer to your LB Brief, pp.10-17, as you work on this exercise. Some of these exercises will have to be completed on a separate sheet of paper.**

**Step One: Choosing a topic**

After going over the assignment guide for Essay #1, spend about 5 minutes brainstorming a list of potential ideas for your essay. (See p.13 in LB Brief for a brainstorming example)

• ___________________________________________________________
• ___________________________________________________________
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**Step Two: Freewriting**

Look over your brainstorming list and choose one or two ideas to freewrite (see p.13 in LB Brief). Spend about 5 minutes freewriting by hand on a separate sheet of paper. Then switch to the computer and spend another 5 minutes freewriting. Which works better for you: freewriting by hand or on the computer? Some people will have more success freewriting by hand, and others prefer the computer. The important thing is to write nonstop without editing, rereading, or correcting grammar, etc.

**Step Three: Ask Questions**

Turn to pp.15-16 in your LB Brief and look at the list of questions at the bottom of the page. Another way to generate ideas on a topic is to pose and answer these questions. Do that for your topic in the spaces below:

1. Who was involved? ___________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

2. What happened, and what were the results? ________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

3. When did it happen? __________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________

4. Where did it happen? _________________________________________________________
   __________________________________________________________________________
5. Why did it happen? _____________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

6. How did it happen? ___________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

(continue on another sheet of paper if necessary)

**Step Four: Clustering**

Look at the example of a “cluster map” at the top of p.15 in the **LB Brief**. Use the space below to create a cluster map by writing one main topic idea in the middle of the page and circling it. Then create subtopics as shown on p.15.

You will include this exercise in your final folder for Essay #1.