

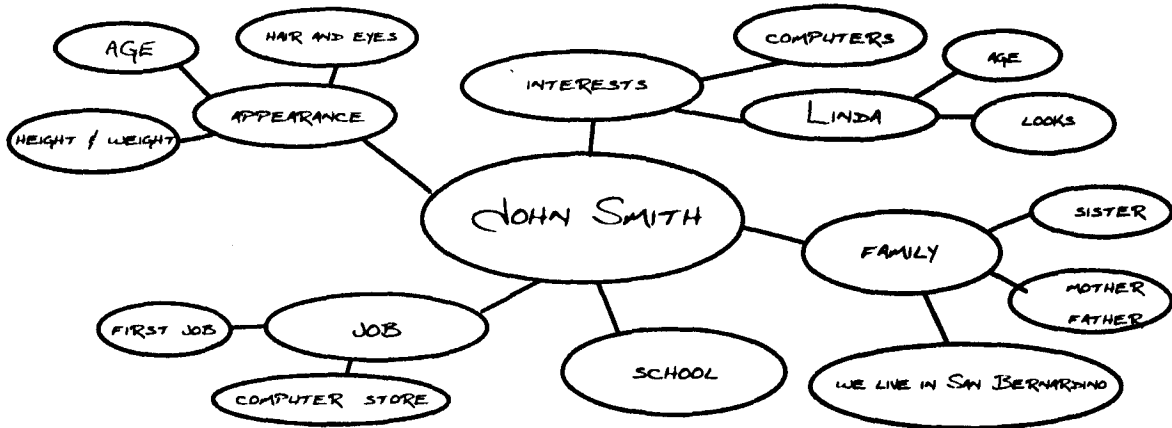
Prewriting: Getting your ideas together

There are several ways of getting your ideas together and arranging them logically in the form of a paragraph or essay. Here are three common ones:

Brainstorming: Put down all of your ideas in the order you think of them, then number them in the most logical order.

- 1 My name is John Smith.
- 2 I come from San Bernardino, California.
- 7 I have a girlfriend named Linda.
- 3 I am 22 years old. 8 She is 21.
- 10 I work at a computer store.
- 4 I have brown hair and brown eyes.
- 9 I like computers.
- 5 I have a mother, a father, and a sister.
- 6 She is 19 and starting college.

Clustering: Start with your main idea at the center and show how other ideas relate to it by means of a diagram.



Outlining: Arrange your ideas in a logical hierarchy.

My Life

I. Introduce myself

- A. My name is John Smith
- B. My family
 1. Parents
 - a. Mother
 - b. Father
 2. Sister

II. Childhood

- A. Born in San Bernardino
 1. Early childhood
 2. Elementary school

III. Teens

- A. Middle School
- B. High school

IV. Now

- A. College
- B. Job
- C. Social Life
 1. Hobbies
 2. Girlfriend