

# Clustering/Brainstorming

## Why?

- \* Clustering or brainstorming is a way for students to generate a wealth of ideas in a very short time without elaborating on any one.
- \* Clustering shows a visual representation that allows students to see relationships between and among facts and ideas.
- \* Clustering generates the flow of ideas on any given topic.
- \* Clustering serves as a prewrite for journals, learning logs or report writing.
- \* Clustering may be useful for chapter test review.

## How?

- \* Write one word on the board or chart paper.
- \* Option 1: Students collaboratively use free association or brainstorming to "cluster" other words around it. Teacher records.
- \* Option 2: Students write the word on their paper and independently use free association and brainstorming to cluster words around it.
- \* Option 3: Students may work in pairs or in small groups.
- \* All suggestions should be accepted and added to the cluster.
- \* Accumulate ideas as quickly as possible, letting one thing lead to another.
- \* Worry about spelling and grammar later!
- \* Students select one branch of the cluster or a series of related words to use as a writing topic.
- \* Optional application: provide specific categories for clusters.

