The ABC’s of Prewriting

Part A. Select your topic and decide on the reason for writing your essay

- How to get started: How can you choose a topic to write about?
  - Write down several ideas you would like to write about.
  - Think about why you want to write about these topics.
  - Think about who will read your work and what you want to tell them.
  - You can be assigned a topic by a teacher.

Part B. Research: Get information and develop your topic

- There are several ways to get information. You can use all of them or choose the ones that work best for you.
  - Brainstorm.
  - Interview your friends and family.
  - Research by using the library and/or Internet.

Part C. Organize your ideas and information

- Decide your main idea: Review the information you gathered and ask yourself, “What is it mostly about?” This question will help you discover the main idea of your essay.

- Grouping
  - Make lists of similar information.
  - Make a cluster drawing.
  - Review the information in each list/cluster drawing and ask yourself, “What is this list/cluster drawing mostly about?” This will help you find the main idea of that group.
  - Use the main idea of each list/cluster drawing to help you title/name that group.