

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Brainstorming

If you are writing an essay or other type of non-personal writing and your topic is already selected or assigned, concentrate on the standard W's: who, what, where, when, and why. These questions will help you quickly develop a great deal of information about your subject. Not every question word will apply to every essay, and the prompts that follow each are meant to be taken as suggestions. Admissions essays and personal narrative essays are meant to be personal, so you must focus on yourself. Take time answering personal questions such as the following.

1. Where have you been (chronological history)?
2. What have you accomplished or achieved?
3. What do you do with your time when not in school?
4. What are you good at? Passionate about?
5. Who are/were your major influences?

Free writing task:

Spend five minutes free writing on the above questions. Remember, there is no wrong answer as long as you get ideas. Keep your pen or your typing fingers moving, don't stop, and don't edit or judge. Just set the timer for five minutes, and write. Use more paper if you want.

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### Listing

Take three to five minutes to brainstorm a list of ideas for the following assignment:

Remember a time when you were not prepared for something. What happened? Why?

Where. When. With whom? What was the result?

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### **Personal Narrative Idea List**

Use these ideas to brainstorm ideas you might write a personal narrative about. (Be descriptive)

Times you learned to do something: Ride a bike, make cookies, blow a bubble ...

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A Place you have visited

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A scary moment

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A Time You Got Hurt

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A Family Ritual

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Making a New Friend

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Starting Over: New School, New Team, New House ...

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Best Day or Worst Day

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A Mistake

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Fill in the blank with the form of the noun in parentheses that is appropriate to the grammatical context of the sentence and the meaning of the passage as a whole.

**Diabetes: Beyond the Basics**

Because diabetes can cause devastating \_\_\_\_\_ (damage, damages) to virtually all body \_\_\_\_\_ (system, systems), people with diabetes should not underrate the seriousness of their disease. Learning to live with a chronic \_\_\_\_\_ (illness, illnesses) such as diabetes must be an ongoing process.

The Hospital's Center for Family Life Education is sponsoring a five-part educational series on diabetes. The series will begin on April 30 and continue through May 29. The \_\_\_\_\_ (program, programs) will be held in the second floor classroom of the Education Center from 7-9 p.m.

The diabetes series is free and open to the public and will be of specific \_\_\_\_\_ (interest, interests) to people who have diabetes and their families and friends.

**In the following sentences, substitute one of these expressions for the underlined words:**

- \* little
- \* quite a little or quite a bit of
- \* few
- \* quite a few

To clarify, *little* means "not much," but *quite a little* (or *quite a bit of*) means "a rather large amount." *Few* means "not many," but *quite a few* means "a rather large number." It may be necessary to change the verb from negative to positive or positive to negative.

1. A rather large number of students have trouble with economics.
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2. It requires a rather large amount of reading.
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3. Not many advisors spend as much time with their students.
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4. He hasn't much hope of passing his exams.

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5. George's advisor spends a rather large amount of time with him.

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6. He knows many people in the class.

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7. Bill doesn't spend much money on clothes.

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8. She spends a rather large amount of money on CDs.

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9. He doesn't have many suits.

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10. He doesn't understand much of the reading.

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**Fill in the blanks with the appropriate article (a, an, the, this, that) if one is needed or leave it blank if you think nothing is required. (a or an) are used only for countable nouns.**

### **The Computer Jungle**

Though you can make \_\_\_\_ decision on purely economic grounds, buying \_\_\_\_ computer is often more like joining \_\_\_\_ fan club. Buy \_\_\_\_ Apple, for example, and almost by default you join Apple chairman Steve Jobs in his crusade against IBM. Every machine has its "users' groups" and \_\_\_\_ band of loyal enthusiasts who tout its merits. That makes it all \_\_\_\_ more difficult for \_\_\_\_ newbie to decide what machine to buy. Students have \_\_\_\_ huge advantage, however. The computer companies are so eager for students' business (it builds "brand loyalty") that many offer huge discounts.

In the past six months, IBM, Apple, and others have brought out new computers, and \_\_\_\_ fierce competition has forced prices down. Also, time is on your side: next year at \_\_\_\_ time you'll have even more choice and more computing power and features for \_\_\_\_ same price. On \_\_\_\_ other

hand, this will probably be true for many years. So for those who need or want \_\_\_\_ computer now, it's a great time to buy one.