Developing and Organizing Ideas

The process of developing ideas involves two stages:

- Generating ideas

- Developing and organizing ideas

Generating Ideas:
When **generating ideas** the process is to develop skills for getting what you know about a topic down on paper.
As a student you have probably used some of the techniques for generating ideas such as **brainstorming** and **rapid writing**. The process for both is quite simple; generate as many ideas about a topic by listing all prior knowledge you have on the subject. One writes or types as quickly as possible without stopping or making any corrections.

For example, if you were given an element of art such as '**texture**'.

One person while brainstorming may write: *rough, prickly, burlap*.

Another person may write: *soft, warm, velvet*.

Notice how the same element evokes different responses?

Developing and Organizing Ideas:
After generating ideas you will need a way to organize that information. There are several ways of achieving this. Some include the following:
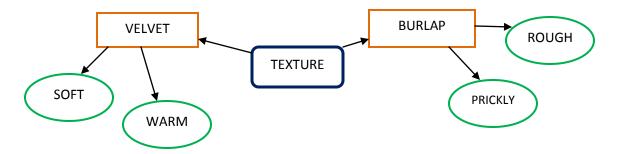**Clustering -** Looking for similarities among ideas, information, or things, and grouping them together according to characteristics.
Comparing - Identifying similarities among ideas, information, or things.
Generalizing - Describing the overall picture based on the idea and information presented.
Outlining - Organizing main ideas, information, and supporting details based on their relationship to each other.
Webbing - Webbing is an example of a graphic organizer that visually allows the writer to cluster information generated through brainstorming or rapid writing. An example of webbing is featured below:

Information compiled from THINK LITERACY: Cross-Curricular Approaches, Grades 7 -12 (2003).