Prewriting:
The invention stage...it is anything you do before drafting in the writing process.

**Listing:**
- Jot down every idea you have about your topic. Free-associate; don't hold back anything.
- Try to brainstorm for at least ten minutes
- Write everything down in a list form.
  ⇒ This can be one word, a phrase, an entire sentence, or more.
  ⇒ Remember do no worry about grammar and spelling at this point, just get your thoughts on paper.

**Journalists’ Questions:**
Simply ask yourself the basic:
- Who,
- What,
- Where,
- When,
- Why,
- and How
In relation to your topic. Not all questions may apply, but it is a questioning method to get you thinking about your topic.

**Clustering:**
- This is a great technique for visual learners since this type of prewriting allows you to visually see how ideas can go together under each cluster.
- To get started
  * Place your general subject in a circle in the middle of a blank sheet of paper.
  * Begin to draw other lines or circles that shoot out from the original topic.
  * Cluster the ideas that seem to go together.
  * Try to do this for at least ten minutes.

**Freewriting:**
- To get started:
  1. Take out a blank sheet of paper or open a new word document
  2. Begin writing for at least ten to fifteen minutes.
  3. Write whatever comes to your mind about your subject.
  4. Do not worry about spelling, punctuation, or grammar. Do not change, correct, or delete anything.
  5. If you cannot think of something to write about, just write “I can’t think of anything to write right now; I’m stumped.” Simply keep writing until a new thought comes into your mind.

**Tagmemics:**
This is another questioning method that forces you to look at a topic from different perspectives:
1) PARTICLE (a self-contained X) - What is X?, How would you define X?, How would you describe X?, What are X’s characteristics?
2) WAVE (an X that changes over time) - What is the history of X?, What was X like in the past?, In what ways is X different now from the past?, Are changes in X happening quickly or slowly?, What are the effects of X’s changes on X?
3) FIELD (An X that is Part of a Larger Context) - How is X similar to Y?, How is X different than Y?, How does X fit into/be a part of/be important to Y?

**Cubing:**
Cubing forces you to look at a topic from six different angles, as if you were studying the six sides of a cube. The six angles are:
1. Describe it: What does your subject look like? What size, colors, texture does it have? Any special features worth noting?
2. Compare or contrast it: What is your subject similar to? What is your subject different from? In what ways?
3. Free-associate it: What does this subject remind you of? What does it call to mind? What memories does it conjure up?
4. Analyze it: How does it work? How are the parts connected? What is its significance?
5. Argue for or against it: What arguments can you make for or against your subject? What advantages or disadvantages does it have? What changes or improvements should be made?
6. Apply it: What are the uses of your subject? What can you do with it?