**Brainstorming practice sheet**

**Exercise #3: Finding better words using the thesaurus**

One of the most common things that happens with paragraphs is the repetition of common words. Using your thesaurus, find at least five (or as many as you can if there are not ten) different words that mean the same or similar to the following list.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Word | Alternates |
| Good |  |
| Bad |  |
| Important |  |
| Weak |  |
| Strong |  |
| Reason |  |
| Example |  |
| Explain |  |
| First |  |
| Also |  |
| Because |  |
| Last |  |
| Happy |  |
| Sad |  |
| Angry |  |

Brainstorming (Research)

One of the most important skills for writing is that of brainstorming. You need to be able to quickly think of ideas that you can write about with a topic. This is easier to do if you have a clear topic, and/or topic sentence to begin with. For the following topics think of a topic sentence and then turn it into a question to answer for your brainstorm. Then brainstorm a list of items that could be talked about in those paragraphs. These could be descriptions, reasons, examples, etc. See the example for help.

Topics to Brainstorm-Brainstorm Example-

Topic- School - Topic sentence- Winter is a great time of year. Question- why is it a great time of year?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Topic sentence- Winter is a great time of year | | | | |
| Reason 1 | Reason 2 | Reason 3 | Reason 4 | Reason 5 |
| Recreation | Vacation | Weather | Holidays | Scenery |
| Examples | Examples | Examples | Examples | Examples |
| Sports, skiing, snowmobiling, skating, sledding, ice fishing | no school, time to spend with friends, going traveling, seeing relatives | snow, ice, sunny, frosty, crisp, fresh air | Christmas and New Years, Parties, good food, presents, games, fun | pretty, snowflakes, ice crystals, icicles, snow angels, Christmas lights, decorations, Christmas trees, wreaths |

**Exercise #4: Brainstorm for two of the following topic sentences (at least 10 items per category)**

1. Protecting the environment is important for our future.

2. Having goals helps a person be successful in life.

3. School is not the only place people learn life lessons.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Topic sentence- | | | | |
| Reason 1 | Reason 2 | Reason 3 | Reason 4 | Reason 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Examples | Examples | Examples | Examples | Examples |
|  |  |  |  |  |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Topic sentence- | | | | |
| Reason 1 | Reason 2 | Reason 3 | Reason 4 | Reason 5 |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Examples | Examples | Examples | Examples | Examples |
|  |  |  |  |  |