

- The first element of the 6 + 1 Traits

The ideas and content is what you have to say - the reason for writing your paper. Everything about your writing begins with that message.

-Northwest Regional Education Laboratory



10 Use the ideas that are floating all around you!

- 10 Personal experiences**
- 10 Something you know a lot about**
- 10 Something important to you**
- 10 An idea from your imagination**
- 10 Something that interests you**

Now let's do some brainstorming!

- Once you have chosen a topic ask yourself a few questions.
 - Is my topic too LARGE for me to do a good job?
 - Do I know enough about my topic to share it with someone else?
 - What is the point of my paper or story?

● #1 RULE

Keep it small

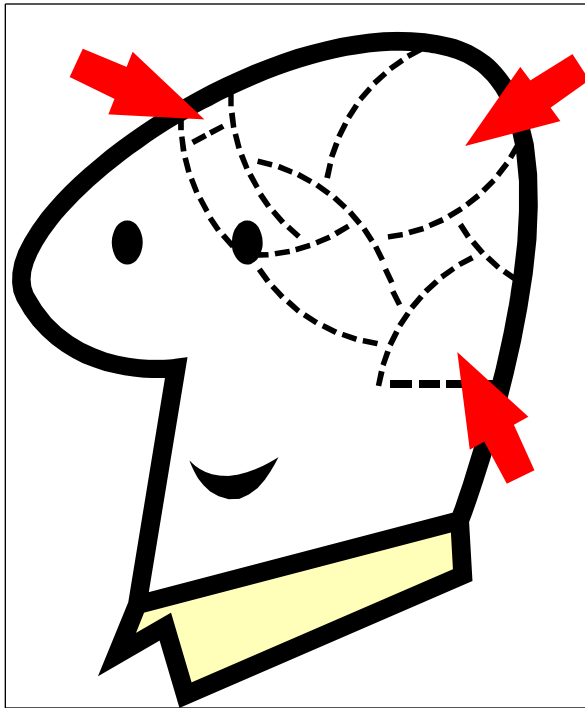
- If your topic is too large the reader will get lost.
 - Animals
 - Birds
 - Eagles
 - How the Eagle Became the National Bird



Were our topics too large?

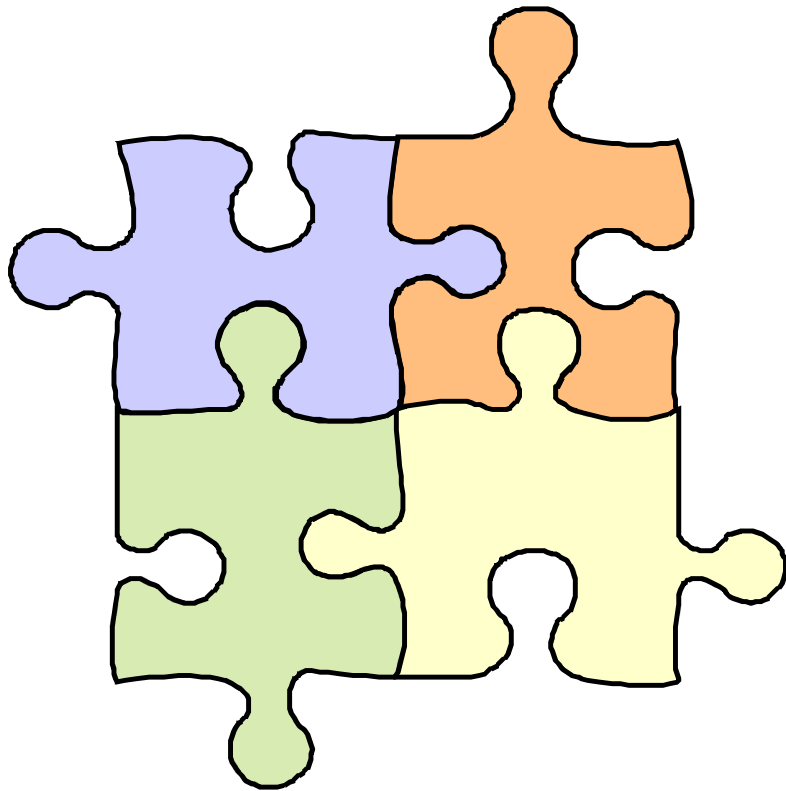
- If my topic is How the Eagle Became the National Bird
- Do I know a lot about that topic?
- Do I know details that most people wouldn't?
- If not, do I know where to find interesting details?





- Keep in mind

- Know your audience.
- Have a clear plan for writing.
- Answer any question the reader may have before they have to ask.



- Choose a topic that you will enjoy.
- Narrow your topic to a controllable size.
- Add interesting details that may surprise people.
- Have a clear plan for writing.

**THE
END**