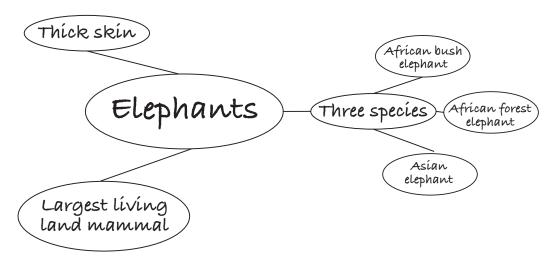
Two Techniques for Brainstorming

1. Make a "mind map"

Begin with a large sphere at the center of your paper. Draw a new sphere for each thought you have, and connect it back to your topic with a line. Then add new thoughts about each sub-topic and connect them back to their sub-topic, as with the three species of elephants in the example below.



$\it 2$. Make a chart

If you have multiple topics or want to compare and contrast several subjects, you may want to create a chart. List each topic at the top of the page, then write your facts below each heading, as in the example below.

Similarities and differences between whales, dolphins, and porpoises

Whales	Dolphins	Porpoises
Largest of the three	Next largest	Smallest
No teeth or	Cone-shaped teeth	Spade-shaped teeth
cone-shaped teeth	Small curved	Small straight
Large dorsal fin	dorsal fin	dorsal fin

Experiment with these techniques to see which works best for you. Flip your paper over and try them out!