CREATIVE DISCOVERY PROCESS

The Creative Discovery Process (CDP) can be used for writing, goal-setting, finding one’s purpose, and more. It’s a great way to get started, prime the mind, and gain clarity and direction. Here are the steps:

**Cluster & Star**
Students begin by writing the main topic on paper and circling it, then continuing to get as many ideas as possible written down. It’s free flowing. An idea comes, write it down. Another idea that connects to that idea, put it in another bubble and draw a line to the first idea. It keeps expanding as fast as ideas come to mind. At the end of the clustering step, students review the ideas and star those that stand out.

**Mind Map**
Mind Mapping is more structured. Again it starts by writing the central topic in the center of the page and circling it (or an outline of an image that relates). Students than select starred items from their cluster that are main areas and write them on main branches. (See page 21 for illustration and more direction.)

**Fastwrite**
In the fastwriting step, students usually start with general overall thoughts (later used in introduction), then—writing as quickly as possible—begin with one of the branches and continue to the next branch, and so on. They can jump around and jot thoughts as they come to mind. The idea is to just keep writing without hesitating to get out all their thoughts. Students write without concern for correct grammar or order, and their ideas continue to grow.

QUANTUM WRITING

In Quantum Writing for our 6-day programs, students create a pen name and use that persona as they learn the writing strategy. There are two segments to this Quantum Writing strategy—the creative segment and the critic segment.

The creative segment is the **Creative Discovery Process** outlined above: **Cluster & Star, Mind Map, Fastwrite**. This first step in the writing process helps students generate ideas and immediately get beyond writer’s block. We have found that for most students, the hardest part of writing is getting ideas and getting started!

The critic segment of this writing process is when students create a draft from all the ideas they’ve generated and from their fastwrite, and then actually write and refine what they’ve written. Here are the steps in this segment:

- Write draft (Frame: Introduction, Body, Conclusion)
- Edit/rewrite
- Polish

Following this Quantum Writing process, students soon realize they can in fact write, and using first their creative hat and then their critic hat, they soon gain confidence and enjoy writing!
The Senior Forum (10-day program) Quantum Writing process empowers students with strategies that give them confidence in their writing ability. Writing is no longer an intimidating chore—students write easily with less stress and better results.

1–Diverge

In step one, students learn how to overcome writer’s block with a combination of clustering and fastwriting.

**Clustering** is a process for generating ideas, images and feelings around a key word or central idea. As students write words and ideas that come to mind, more thoughts tumble out, expanding their list of words and ideas for writing.

**Fastwriting** is exactly that. Students write all their thoughts down very quickly just as they come to mind. During this fastwriting step, students expand the ideas that came up in their cluster—they just write everything that comes to mind without concern for correct grammar or order, and their cluster ideas continue to grow.

2–Converge

Step two is about taking all the ideas generated in step one and putting them into a purposeful frame. Some ideas are rejected, others are expanded. Students also consider voice, organization, and clarity in this step.

3–Emerge

Having generated lots of ideas and pulled them all together into a cohesive outline, step three brings students to the final stage of developing the piece of writing called for in their assignment, and making it their own. In this final step, students also learn tools to write effectively in high-pressure timed writing situations like standardized exams.