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 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!