**Class 10: Introduction to brainstorming**

1. **Learning Objectives**

At the end of this class, learners should be able to:

1. Search for ideas and information on google on a specific topic
2. Organizing ideas and information in paragraphs (hamburger or not)
3. Refer properly a website or a research article as source of the information or ideas.
4. **Rationale**

Brainstorming helps writers generate more ideas before beginning to write about a topic. It makes writing much easier and you can organize your information based on the purpose of your writing (describing, arguing or taking a position, comparing, or contrasting)1. Brainstorming is a key component of pre-writing. “Reading is more important than writing” Roberto Boleno said. Our reading should be purposeful. Here is where brainstorming comes in play for academic or manuscript writing.

Referencing is how you acknowledge the source of the information you have used (referred to) in your work. It is important to avoid plagiarism and to acknowledge people who have done the work. Accurate and correct referencing in the text and in the reference list tells a lot your readers about you as a person and as a researcher.

From google, you will most likely have a website (no author and year in gray), a research article, and a thesis (medicine, pharmacy, master) or a PhD dissertation (first author and year of publication in gray) on a given topic.

1. **Activities**

**Activity 1**

Brainstorming on the pros and cons of alcohol drinking to produce in a word document two 5-sentence paragraphs (hamburger or not) (one on pros or advantages and another on cons or disadvantages).

**Activity 2**

Brainstorming on the pros and cons of tobacco smoking to produce in a word document two 5-sentence paragraphs (hamburger or not) (one on pros or advantages and another on cons or disadvantages).

**Activity 3**

Brainstorming on the pros and cons of condom to produce in a word document two 5-sentence paragraphs (hamburger or not) (one on pros or advantages and another on cons or disadvantages).

**Activity 4**

Brainstorming on the pros and cons of oral contraceptive pills to produce in a word document two 5-sentence paragraphs (hamburger or not) (one on pros or advantages and another on cons or disadvantages).

**Activity 5**

In academic or manuscript writing, we can choose either a numerical or an alphabetical referencing.

* In numerical referencing, the first item or source of information you cite in the text is using Arabic number i.e. the first is numbered 1 and the second is numbered 2 and so on. When used again in the text, the same item or source of information keeps the same number initially allotted. These numbers in the text can be between squared brackets or in superscript or between parentheses. In the reference list. Be consistent in using only one of three at a time. In the reference list, the same order is kept using Arabic numbers2.

If more than one source of information for the same sentence or group of sentences, separate two Arabic numbers by a comma. **Example 1a:** Malaria causes millions of deaths worldwide1, 2, 5.

If the references are consecutive and are more than two, put a hyphen between the first number and the last one

**Example 1b:** Malaria causes millions of deaths worldwide1, 2, 3,4, 5. Or Malaria causes millions of deaths worldwide1-5.

* In alphabetical referencing, in the text, item or source of information is referenced as author last name or surname and year of publication in parentheses i.e. (author-date). If same author has more than one work cited with the same year of publication, a letter in the alphabet is placed after the year starting with “a”. In the list of references, items or sources of information are arranged alphabetically by author's surname from “a” to “z”.

**Example 2a:** Malaria causes millions of deaths worldwide(Liu et al., 2022).

**Example 2b:** Malaria causes millions of deaths worldwide(Liu et al., 2022a).

Reference: Liu Q, Yan W, Qin C, Du M, Liu M, Liu J. Millions of excess cases and thousands of excess deaths of malaria occurred globally in 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic. J Glob Health. 2022 Dec 17;12:05045. doi: 10.7189/jogh.12.05045. PMID: 36527272; PMCID: PMC9757497.

**Activity 6**

Each learner google “Vancouver referencing style.pdf” and take notes on how we cite and reference a research article, a website and a thesis (medicine, pharmacy, master) or a PhD dissertation. Discuss within your respective small groups your findings. One small group reports on the board and the others add on missing information.

**Activity 7**

Pick one of paragraphs from Activity 1 to Activity 4, add references in the text after each sentence or group of sentences from the same source of information and make a reference list. If you choose the alphabetical referencing system, copy and paste your paragraph and turn alphabetical into numerical referencing system.

**Activity 8**

Having learn about paragraphing and brainstorming, reflect on your own writing strategy before and after today’s class.

1. **Evaluation**
2. What is the hamburger paragraph structure?
3. Where are the most information in a paragraph located?
4. **Group homework**

Pick one of the remaining seven (7) paragraphs from Activity 1 to Activity 4, add references in the text after each sentence or group of sentences from the same source of information and make a reference list. If you choose the alphabetical referencing system, copy and paste your paragraph and turn alphabetical into numerical referencing system. Do it individually and have your work check in your small group before next class.

1. **References**
2. [Dr Randi Reppen](https://www.cambridge.org/elt/blog/author/dr-randi-reppen/) at Cambridge. Brainstorming: A foundation to successful academic writing. Available at <https://www.cambridge.org/elt/blog/2021/03/01/brainstorming-a-foundation-to-successful-academic-writing/> Published 01 March 2021 and consulted on June 8, 2023.

# University of Birmingham. Vancouver (Numbering). Available at [https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/libraryservices/library/referencing/icite/vancouver/index.aspx consulted on June 8](https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/as/libraryservices/library/referencing/icite/vancouver/index.aspx%20consulted%20on%20June%208), 2023.