

WORDS NOT WORKING?

Transform your perspective with multi-sensory pre-writing techniques!

Kinesthetic Activity

- Use Lego, magnets, or Play-Doh to represent and organize ideas!

What can you learn from touching and moving different materials?

Shape/Color Association

- On a whiteboard or paper, arrange your ideas by associating them with different colors or shapes! What types of categories arise?

When you're stuck with words, it's time to try something new!

Research shows that multi-sensory pre-writing techniques can especially help dyslexic (Obaid, 2012), neurodivergent (Pool et al., 2023) and ESL students (Fell, 2016).

Tactile techniques (connected to the sense of touch) foster problem-solving and creativity (Hodge-Zickerman et al., 2020)

Concept Drawing

- Grab some materials and draw a representation of your essay! Is it abstract or realistic? Colorful or monochrome? Simple or complex?

Image Collage

- Gather a variety of images that represent your paper, and make a collage. What connections do you notice? Anything surprising?

Visual techniques can expand and transform a writer's perspective by utilizing non-linguistic methods of communication (Rosier, 2010)

DEFINITION OF MULTI-SENSORY:

“using visual, auditory, and kinesthetic modalities, sometimes at the same time.”

The Department for Education and Skills (2004)

Angie Hodge-Zickerman, Eric Stade, Cindy S. York & Janice Rech, "TACTIVITIES: Fostering Creativity through Tactile Learning Activities," Journal of Humanistic Mathematics, Volume 10 Issue 2 (July 2020), pages 377-390. DOI: 10.5642/jhumath.202002.17.

Obaid, M. A. S. (2012). The Impact Of Using Multi-Sensory Approach For Teaching Students With Learning Disabilities. *Journal of International Education Research (JIER)*, 9(1), 75-82. <https://doi.org/10.19030/jier.v9i1.7502>

Pool, S., Rowsell, J., & Sun, Y. (2023). Towards literacies of immanence: Getting closer to sensory multimodal perspectives on research. *Multimodality & Society*, 3(2), 130-149. <https://doi.org/10.1177/26349795231158741>

Fell, Erin, "Tactile Manipulatives, Color Coding, and Storytelling as Effective Strategies for Improving Second Language Fluency" (2016). Honors Theses. 506. https://repository.lsu.edu/honors_etd/506

Rosier, James Tyler, "Art and Memory: An Examination of the Learning Benefits of Visual-Art Exposure" (2010). Electronic Theses and Dissertations. 436. [HTTPS://DIGITALCOMMONS.GEORGIASOUTHERN.EDU/ETD/436](https://digitalcommons.georgiasouthern.edu/etd/436)

Still Interested?

References for Further Reading