Prewriting

1) Questions to ask before you begin:
   - Why are you writing?
   - Who is your target audience?
   - What is the general point to be made regarding your topic?

2) How to gather information:
   - Take time to brainstorm. Make a list of your ideas as they relate to your topic.
   - Collect a sample of information from a variety of sources (i.e.: books, articles, interviews, experience, etc.)
   - If possible, search for additional information regarding related topics of interest.

3) Begin to organize your thoughts:
   - Decide what will be the main focus of your writing.
   - Outline the structure of your paper or essay, and organize your information to correspond to that outline.
   - Ask yourself, “Is there any other area of this topic that I would like to add?”
   - Ask yourself, “Do any areas of my outline need additional reinforcement or explanation?”

4) What if I have trouble starting to write?
   - Begin by writing whatever thoughts come to mind. Express your thoughts on paper.
     Eventually, your mind will find a way to follow the structure of your outline.
   - Change your thoughts into actual sentences for your paper.