

Planning Your Research and Writing
Webinar from The Scribe Writing Center at Covenant Theological Seminary
November 14, 2019

- 1) Take into account the **TAP** (topic, audience, and purpose) of your assignment prompt before you decide on your writing focus.

**See the Webinar “Decoding an Assignment Prompt” on the Covenant Seminary Library YouTube channel for helpful tips*

- 2) Strategies for choosing and narrowing your topic:
 - a) **Coming up with ideas:** brainstorming lists or webs, talking it out with a friend or in the Scribe Writing Center, asking yourself what puzzled, interested, or fascinated you
 - b) **Narrowing the focus:** double column notes to pair quotes with your analysis/ reflection, asking driving questions (what, how, why) about the topic to develop a thesis (the claim that you will make throughout your paper)

**Resource for brainstorming: Bubbl.us website (you can start a free account)*

- 3) Examples of organizing before you write
 - a) **For a book review:** Consider the order of the topics you will reflect on or analyze. Follow the order of the prompt, the order of the book, or order your points by least to greatest importance. Reflect this order in an informal or full outline so that you can keep on track as you draft.
 - b) **For a thesis-driven paper:** A formal outline will allow you to make sure that the material in each paragraph contributes to your thesis, that your points are in a logical order, and that you are analyzing quotes in order to develop your argument.