

Knowledge Base Inventory

In many classes you will be told specifically what to write about: the major causes of the American Revolution, for instance, or the process of cell division. But if you are asked to write an essay on a topic of your own choosing, for example in a composition class, you might draw a blank, sitting in front of your laptop staring at the MS Word New Blank Document page. Don't despair; you already know a lot about a lot of things. You just need to survey your areas of expertise. The following questions might help you to pinpoint areas you know something about and are interested in. Let's divide these things up into categories (if you can think of others, add to them!):

Home and Family

Where do you live? What do you like/not like about the house/apartment? Have you lived there all your life? Where else have you lived? In a different state? Different country? Do you have brothers, sisters? What are they like? Are you married? Do you have children? What have you learned about where you have lived and those you live with?

School

Have you attended another college? Where? Why are you attending this school? Where did you attend high school? What courses, either in high school or college, interested you the most? What made your "best" teacher your "best" teacher? What made your "worst" teacher the "worst"? Do you plan to attend a different college after this one? Why? What career are you pursuing? What makes it interesting?

Work

Do you work? Where do you work? Do you like your co-workers? Your boss? What is it like working there? Have you worked at different jobs? Which was the best and why? Do you deal with customers? What is the worst part of your job? The best? What job or profession are you aiming to enter?

Military

Have you been in the military? Which service? Where did you serve? What were the best, worst parts of military life? What would you like to tell civilians about military life?

Fun

What do you like to do for fun? Do you play sports? Which sports/teams do you follow? Which types of movies do you like the best? Do you like to read? What kind of books? Do you play video games? What type do you enjoy?

Keep adding to this list. You will find you have a lot to write about.