

*Introduction

Prewriting Strategies

To navigate use the arrow keys on the menu on the top or bottom of the page. You may have to move the cursor over parts of the page to have the menu appear.

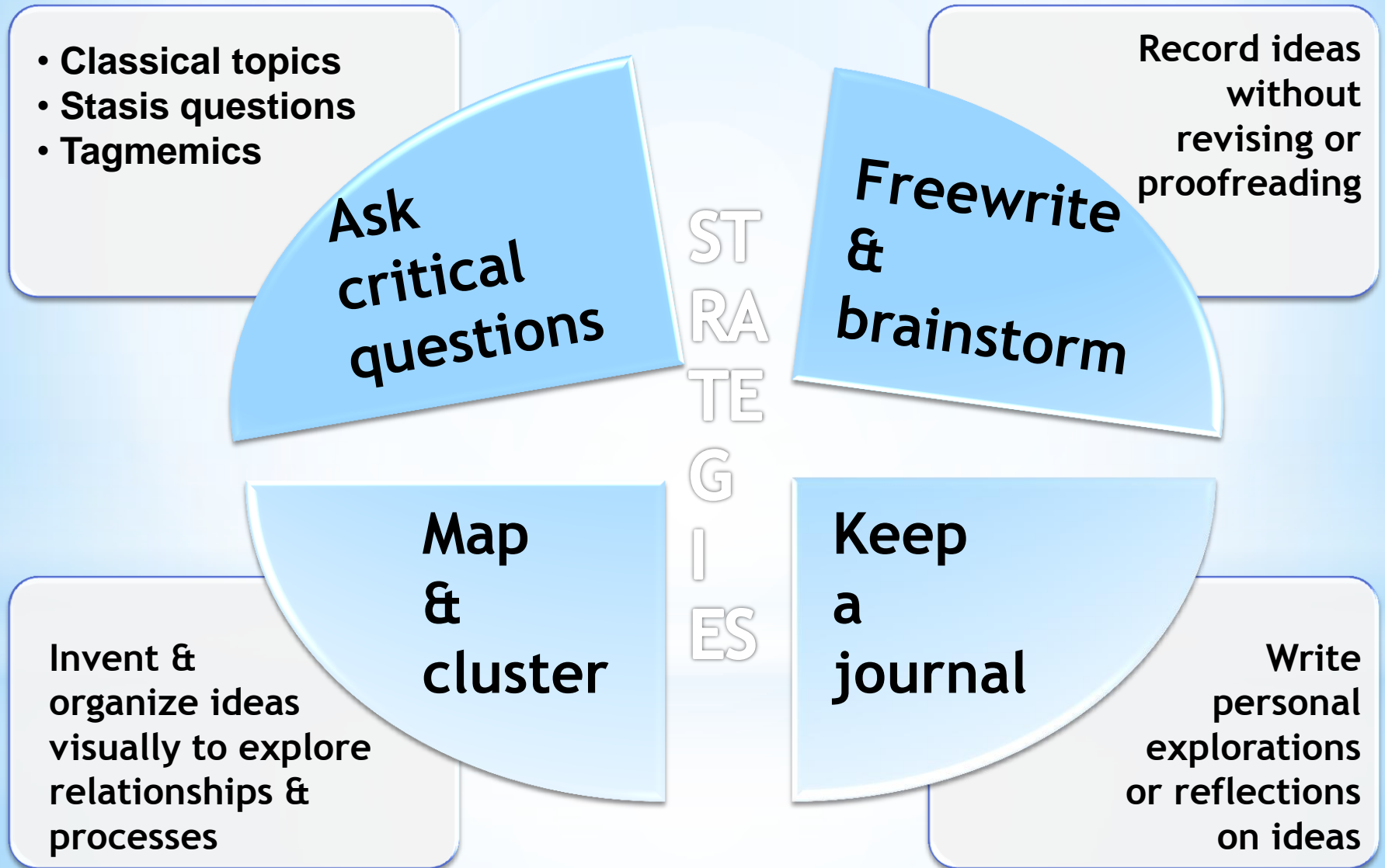
Invention

**1. Devise
a game plan:
schedule the
writing
process.**

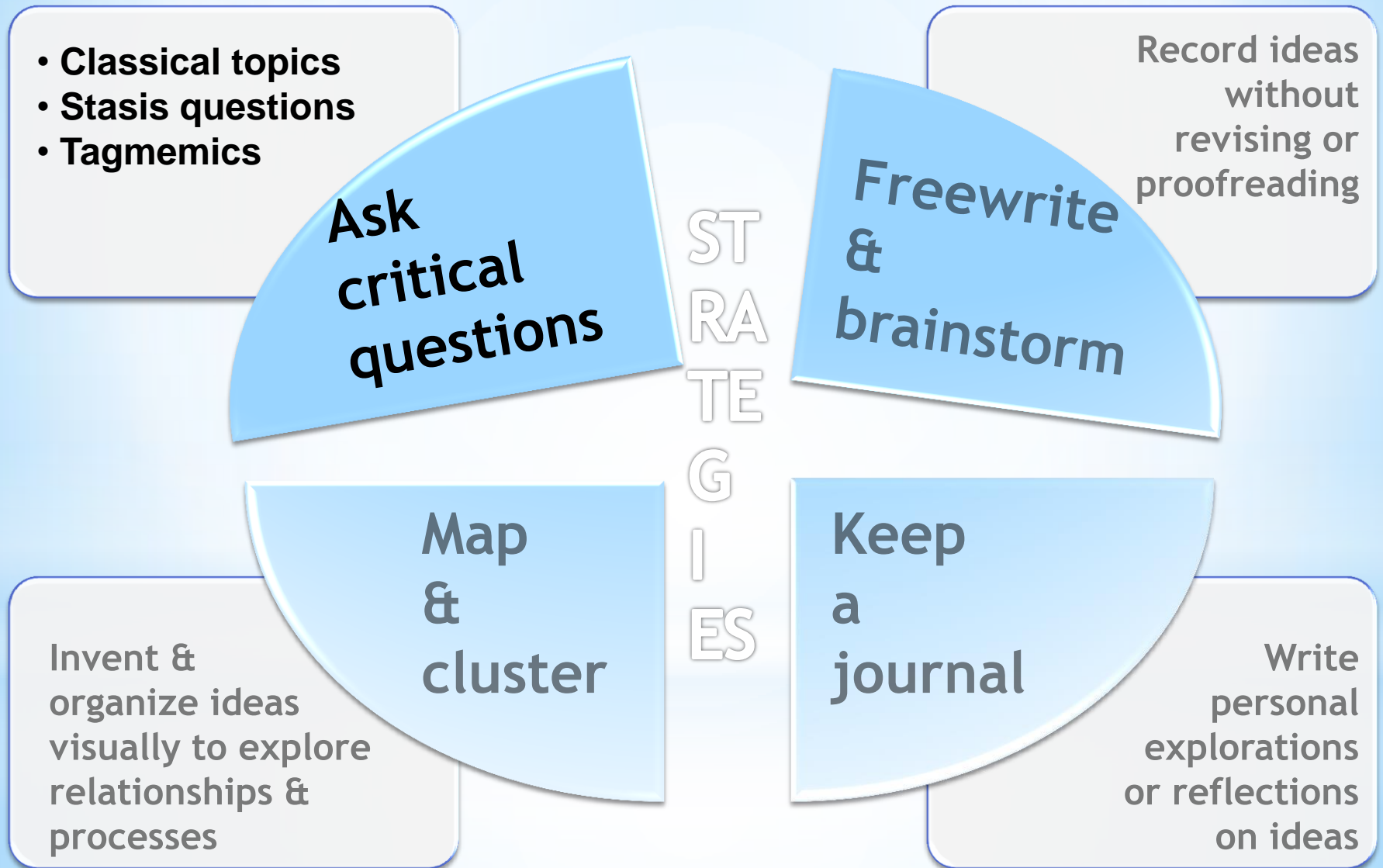
**2. Ask questions
to explore your
rhetorical
situation:**

- What is my purpose?
- Who is my audience?
- What genre am I using (academic, professional, personal)?
- What sort of research will I need to conduct?

Invention Strategies



Invention Strategies



Critical Questions: classical topics

Definition

- Dictionary definition of _____?
- What group of things does this _____ belong to?
- How is the _____ different from other things?
- What are some concrete examples of the _____?

Critical Questions: classical topics

Compare/ contrast

- What is _____ similar to?
- What is _____ different from?
- Is _____ most unlike (like) what?

Critical Questions: classical topics

Relationship

- What causes _____?
- What are the effects of _____?
- What is the purpose of _____?
- What comes before (after) _____?

Critical Questions: classical topics

Testimony

- What have I heard people say about _____?
- What are some facts and stats about _____?

Critical Questions: classical topics

Circumstances

- Is _____ possible/impossible?
- What makes _____ possible/ impossible?
- When did _____ happen?
- What would it take for _____ to happen again?
- What would prevent _____ from happening?

Critical Questions: stasis questions

Fact

- Is there an issue?
- How did it begin and what are its causes?
- What changed to create the issue?
- Who is involved?

Critical Questions: stasis questions

Definition

- What exactly is the issue?
- What is it not?
- What kind of an issue is it?

Critical Questions: stasis questions

Quality

- How serious is the issue?
- What are the costs of the issue?

Critical Questions: stasis questions

Policy

- Who should address this issue?
- What should we do about this issue?

Critical Questions: Tagmemics

Contrastive features

- How is _____ different from things similar to it?
- How has it been different for me?

Critical Questions: Tagmemics

Variation

- How much can _____ change and still be itself?
- How is _____ changing?
- What are the different varieties of _____?

Critical Questions: Tagmemics

Distribution

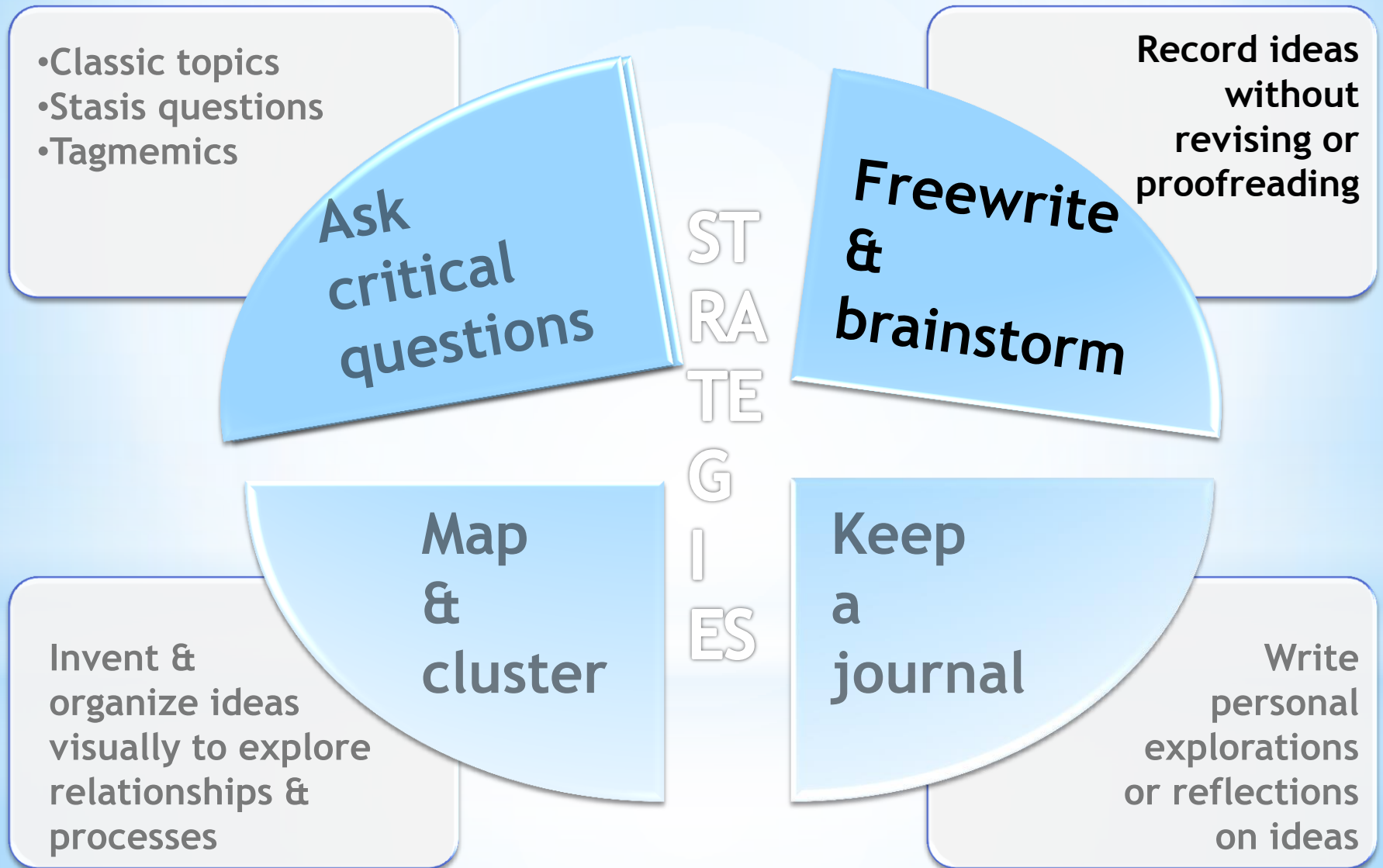
- Where and when does _____ take place?
- What is the larger thing of which _____ is a part?
- What is the function of _____ in this larger thing?

Critical Questions: Tagmemics

Cubing

- Describe it (colors, shapes, etc.)
- Compare it (what is it similar to?)
- Associate it (makes you think of?)
- Analyze it (how is it made?)
- Apply it (uses)
- Argue for or against it

Invention Strategies



Freewrite & Brainstorm

Freewriting

- Set a timer for five to ten minutes
- Look at the topic and think about it briefly
- Now ready? Set? Write!
- Don't stop! Don't edit!
- Keep your fingers typing or your pen moving for your time limit

**Time is up: now you
can finally look over
your ideas.**

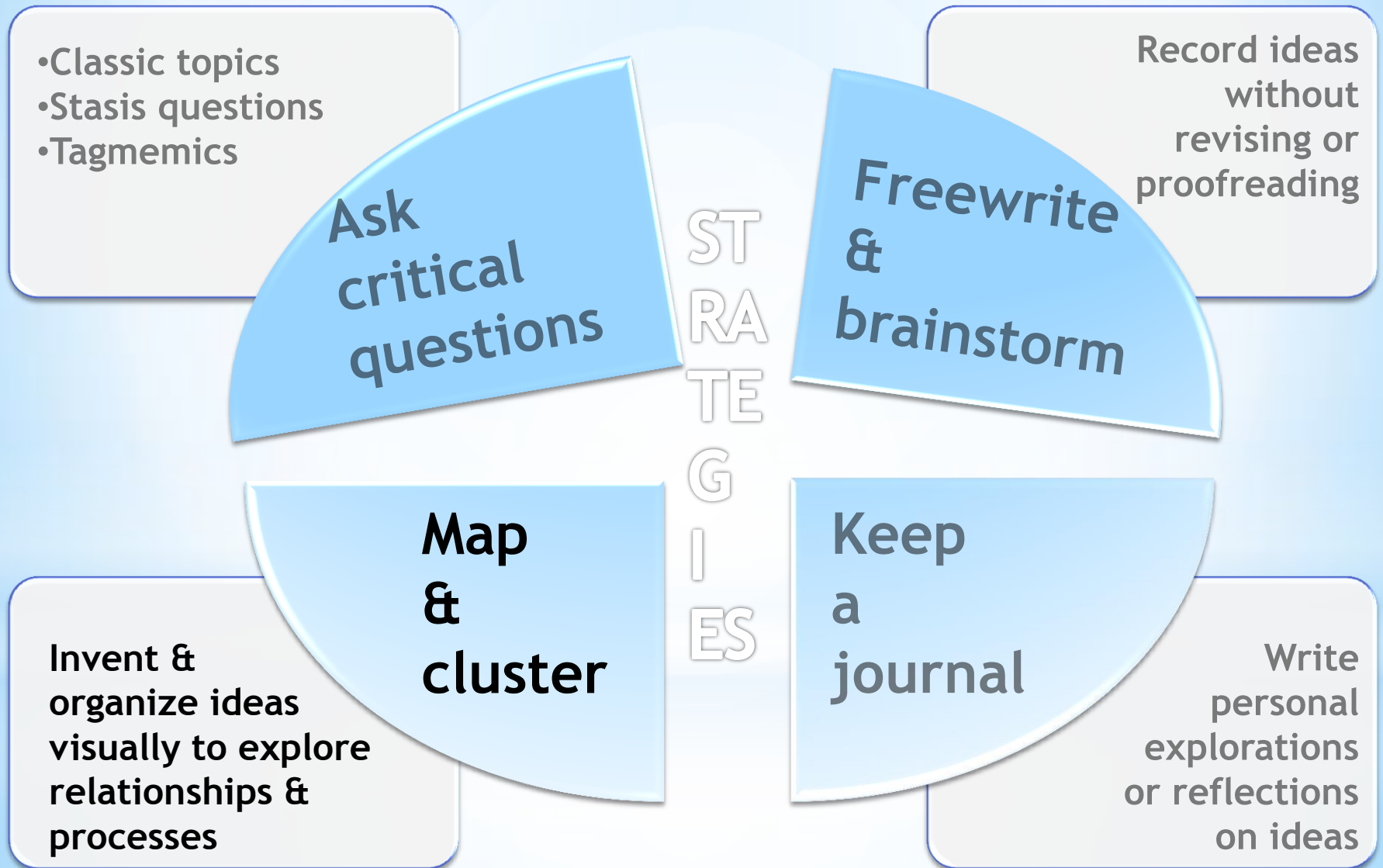
Freewrite & Brainstorm

Brainstorming

- No stopping, no editing (similar to freewriting)
- Note key words or short phrases in list form under your subject (instead of free-flowing paragraph)
- Look at the topic and think about it
- Now ready? Set? Write!
- Keep your list going for your time limit.

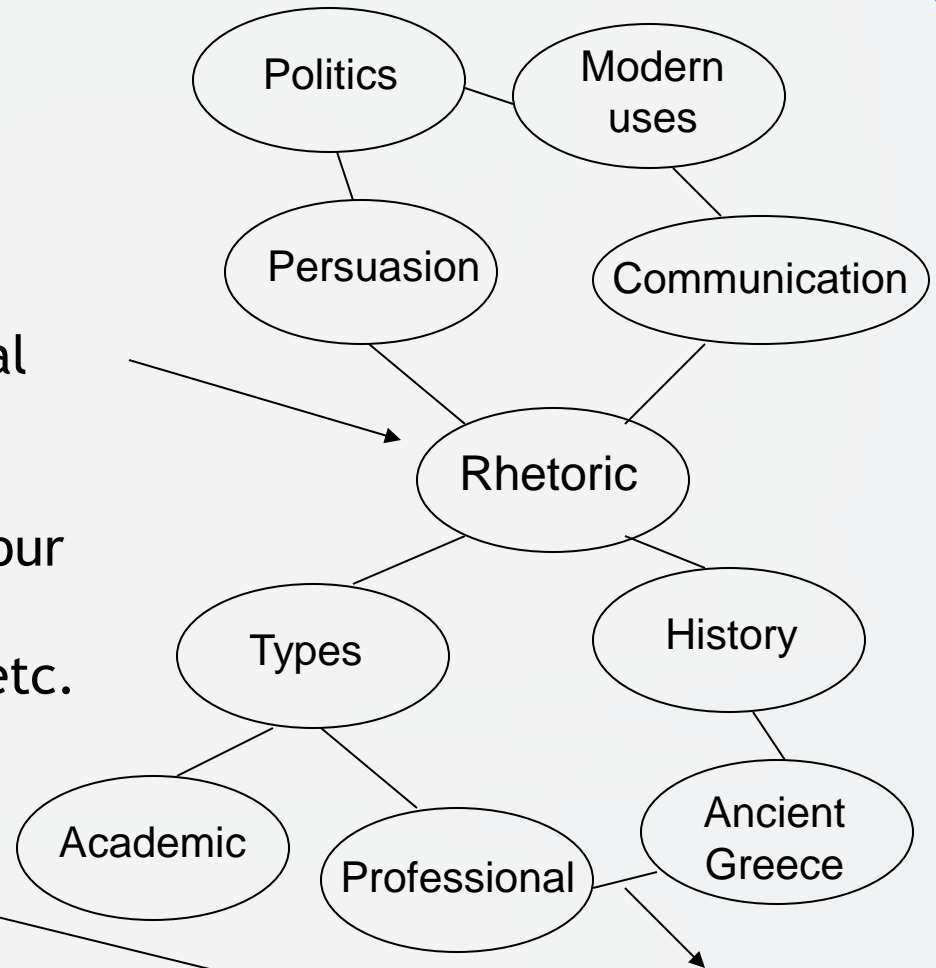
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Invention Strategies



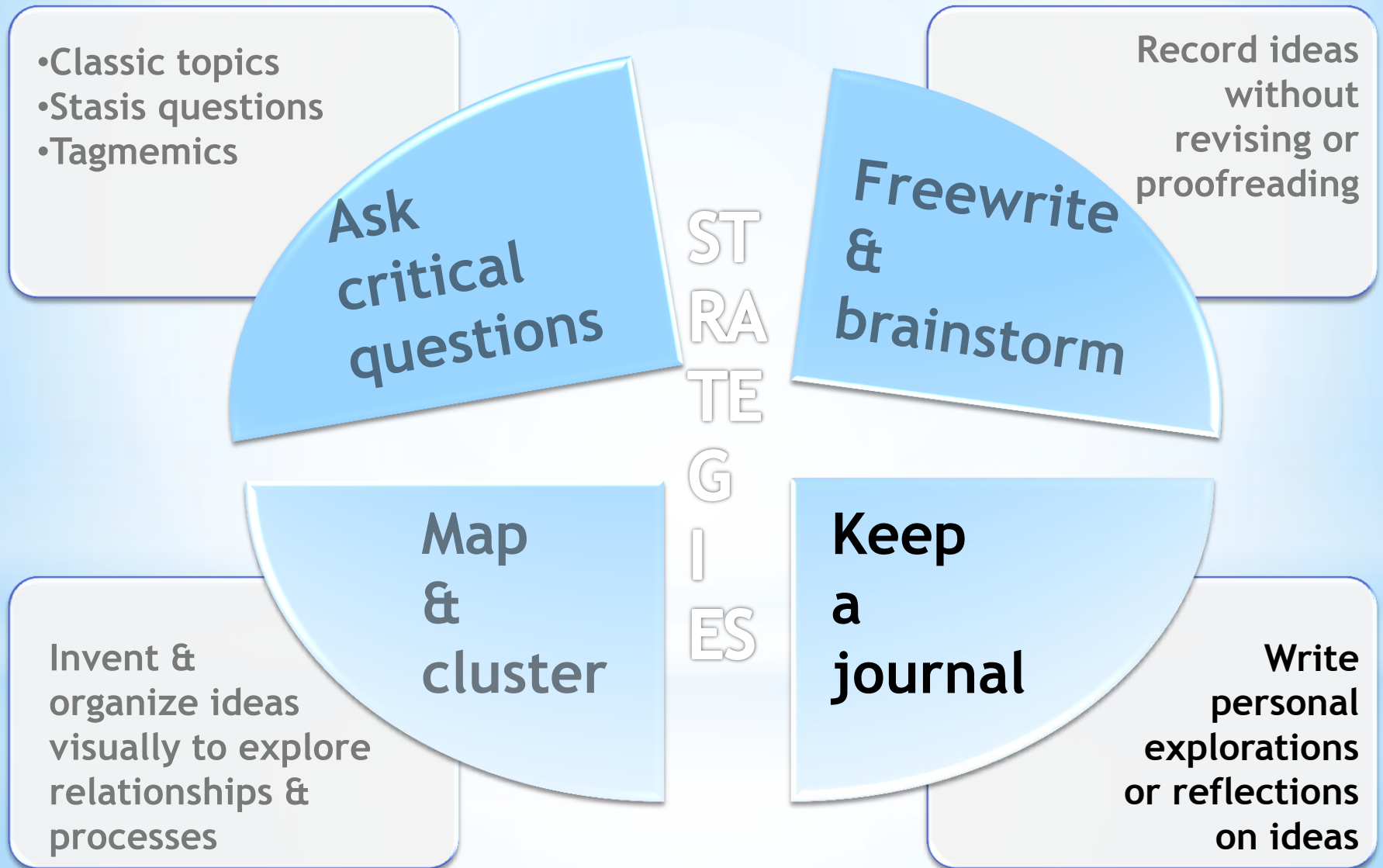
*Map & Cluster

- Rather than writing a free-flowing paragraph or list of concepts, start with a central word
- As related concepts pop in your head, indicate them as branches, arrows, bubbles, etc.
- You may have an “ah ha!” moment



► *What is the connection here?*

Invention Strategies



Keep a Journal

Personal journal

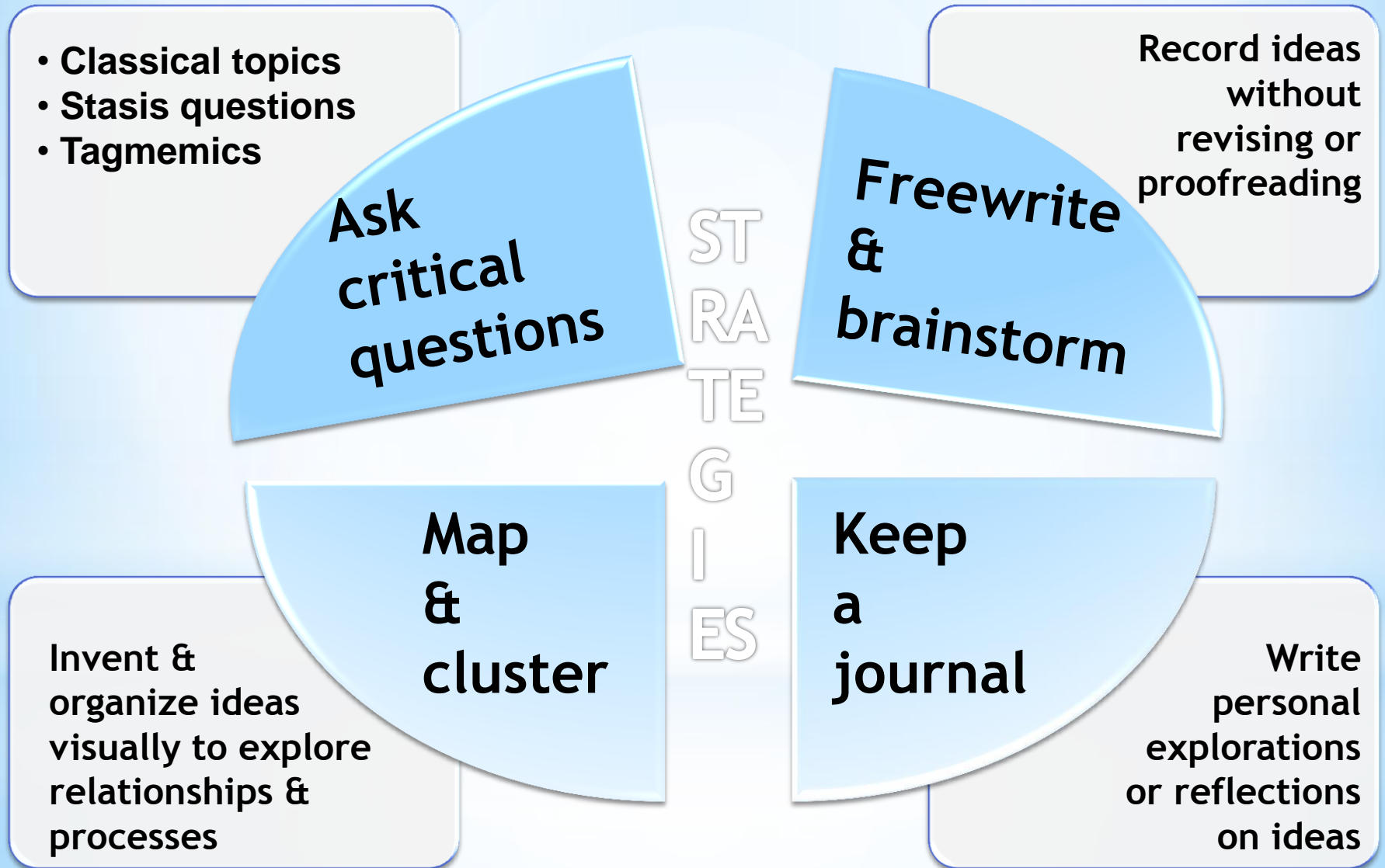
- Write personal explorations and reflections on ideas
- Ask some of these questions:
 - Why is this important to me?
 - How does it relate to me?
 - How do I feel about it?
 - Do I feel good/bad/indifferent about it? Why?
 - How does this affect me daily?
 - How might my connection to this change in the future?
 - How did I feel about this in the past?

Keep a Journal (con't.)

Personal journal

- Write a short story where characters face the same problem you are exploring:
 - How do the characters deal with the situation?
 - Why do they react the way they do?
 - How does the story end, and how does it reflect how you want the real life situation to end?
 - What would *you* have to do to bring about this change?

Invention Strategies



Purdue Writing Lab

Help

- Writing lab: HEAV 226, Purdue University
- Grammar hotline: (765) 494-3723
- On-line writing lab: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu>
- Email: owl@owl.english.purdue.edu

*The End