My Research Project: Generate Ideas by Clustering

In your research log, generate additional ideas about your potential topic by using a clustering exercise.

1. In the middle of a sheet of paper, or in the center of a digital document (word processing file or graphics file), write your potential topic.
2. Identify ideas that are related to your central topic and list them near it. Think about the importance and relevance of each related idea, and draw lines and circles to show the relationships among your ideas.
3. Write additional ideas related to the ideas in Step 2. In turn, draw lines and circles to show their relationships to the other ideas in your cluster.
4. Repeat the process until you’ve created a cluster of ideas that represents your current understanding of the topic you are considering.