



Outlining with Flashcards

SchreibCenter at the Language Resource Center

This exercise is useful if you want to:

- Brainstorm in a flexible and dynamic way
- Collect ideas
- Structure content
- ...

How does it work?

1. Write down all your ideas on flashcards or separate pieces of paper.
 - ⇒ Feel free to use cards in different colors, with each color representing a particular category or subject.
 - ⇒ If you are not yet able to differentiate between different content categories, do not worry – you can use highlighters later.
2. Start sorting through your ideas, trying out different orders, making connections, creating categories, etc.
 - ⇒ Save your outline ideas by photographing or writing the down.
 - ⇒ To (further) differentiate between different categories, highlight them in different colors.

Advantages of this method:

- You can move the cards around easily and by hand.
- You can immediately try out different ways of outlining and structuring your topic.
- You can test various connections between ideas.

Required material:

- Flashcards / prompt cards / pieces of paper, perhaps in different colors
- Pen; if needed, also highlighters
- Camera / Phone

Based on:

<http://methodenpool.uni-koeln.de/brainstorming/darstellung.html>

Scheuermann, Ulrike (2011): Schreibfitness-Mappe: 60 Checklisten, Beispiele und Übungen für alle, die beruflich schreiben. Wien: Linde.