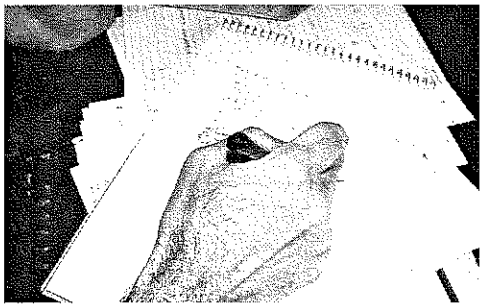
cold	12 boats
air mattresses inadequate	grits pot
big tent	warm sleeping bag
Kamperjon	Dad
Hawkinsville to St. Simons	fires
Bub's finger	three days down river
Johnny's lip	broken prop



Another option may be to conduct a **freewriting** exercise, in which you write down all ideas related to your thesis without worrying about form or language conventions, as in the example below:

Turning Point Paper
River Trip to St. Simons
Freewrite

When I was fifteen years old I got to join my grandfather and his friends in the annual river trip, which starts in Hawkinsville, Georgia on the Ocmulgee River and travels down to the Altamaha all the way down to St Simons Island, Georgia. The trip, which began 50 years ago with my great grandfather and his friends, always begins the first Wednesday in January (brrrr) and goes to the following Saturday. Usually about 15 men go on the trip, including my Dad, my uncle Harley, my uncle Johnny, and several of their friends. My first trip, I was the youngest guy in the group. That meant I had to clean up after each meal. Of course, nobody told me that until it was time to cook dinner after our first breakfast. I had to wash the grits pot. Unfortunately, the grits from breakfast had been sitting inside of the pot all day, and they had dried to the inside of the pot like tiny little bricks. I scrubbed that pot until my fingers were raw. Finally, Jilden showed me some compassion because not too long ago he had to wash the grits pot himself. Jilden showed me how to fill the pot with river water and boil it, which softened the grits so that I could scrub them out. I used that trick every day, and after that first day I made sure to scrub the grits pot right after breakfast. Also, now that I know better I always take with me a paint scraper on the trip (because I'm still the youngest guy in the group) boiling water and a paint scraper does the trick. Still, I'll be glad when my brother's old enough to come along so I can pass that honor down to him.

Thesis: On my first excursion on the annual river trip, I learned several lessons on how to get along on the banks of the Altamaha.

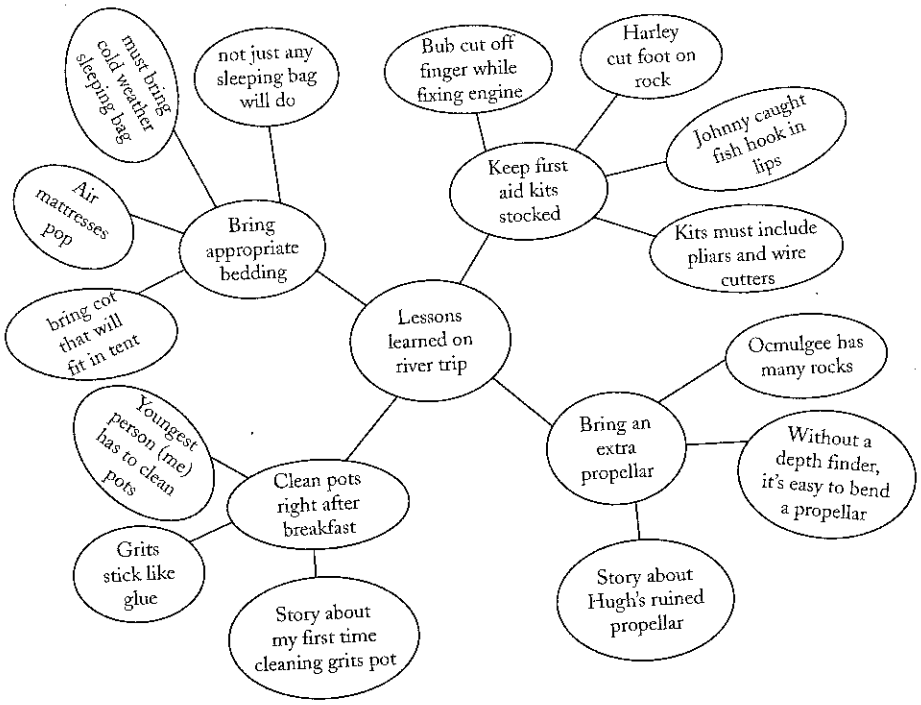
Background:
- 50 year tradition
- started with great-grandfather
- now organized by grandfather
- 15–20 men ranging from 15–80 years old
- first Wednesday through Saturday of January
- starts in Ocmulgee River and travels to Altamaha and down to St. Simons

Lesson 1: Bring appropriate bedding
- not just any sleeping bag will do
- must bring cold weather sleeping bag
- air mattresses pop
- bring cot that will fit in tent

Lesson 2: Clean pots right after breakfast
- youngest person (me) has to clean pots
- grits stick like glue
- story about first time cleaning grits pot

Lesson 3: First Aid Kits do get used — keep them stocked
- story about Bub cutting off finger while fixing engine
- other examples of minor injuries — Harley's cut foot, Johnny's fish hook in lips

Lesson 4: Bring an extra propellar
- Ocmulgee has lots of rocks
- without a depth finder, you can hit one easily
- story about Hugh ruining propellar

While many students prefer to outline their papers, other students gravitate toward the **clustering** strategy, which enables students to organize related ideas in a non-linear fashion. A cluster for the river trip essay might look like this:

Thesis: On my first excursion on the annual river trip, I learned several lessons on how to get along on the banks of the Altamaha.