# Spider Diagrams

Spider diagrams are mainly used for planning (e.g. an article or story) or creating and provoking ideas. Spider diagrams are organised in a neat and clearly structured layout. They start with a central idea and branch out.

The advantage of spider maps is that they are so easy and very quick to make. You draw them how you like and they'll be done in a matter of minutes. They start with a central idea and branch outwards from the centre, leaving endless possibilities.

**Instructions**

1. First you write what the topic/concept of the brainstorm is in the middle of the page and then draw a bubble around it. For instance, if you were drawing a spider diagram on the topic of a famous person, you would write their name in the middle of the page and then draw the bubble around it.
2. Next start with generating your ideas. You add the idea by drawing an arrow or a line from the bubble outwards. You then label it at the end of the line and draw a bubble around it. Think of as many ideas as possible and label each one. For instance, on the topic of Martin Luther King, you might have ideas such as family background, death, famous speeches, political activities etc.
3. Once you have your ideas, you can add details in sub-ideas. So, in the family background idea, you could include his date and place of birth, information on his wife and children. The ideas should start to flow and *voila* you have your brainstorm!

**At this stage you are still writing notes – words and phrases to prompt your writing later.**

