

Wandering Map

- 1) Start thinking about any interesting, or significant things that you've done or that has happened to you. Think all the way back to your pre-school days through the present and note any highlights you remember.
 - Did you take interesting classes?
 - Did you have a memorable summer experience?
 - What are some things you are most proud of?
 - Did you face a tough challenge?
 - Did you have interesting hobbies?
 - How did you spend your free time?
 - What was your favorite time in school?
- 2) Start writing down your thoughts on your paper. Remember to keep them short (a word or two.) Draw a circle around every entry you write down, to keep them separate from one another.
- 3) Don't worry about organizing your map in any way. Anything that comes to your mind should go on the paper, even if you think it is trivial or silly.
- 4) If you are having trouble coming up with ideas, check out the next page full of "Wandering Map Prompts" to help get your mind going.

Wandering Map Prompts

Objects you use and/or enjoy

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|--------------------|
| • Computers | • Telescopes | • Kitchen Utensils |
| • Musical instruments | • Microscopes | • Sports Equipment |
| • Books | • Sailboats | • Toolbox |
| • Binoculars | • Paintbrushes | • Lawnmower |
| • Skateboards | • Journals | • Cars |

Events in your life, positive/negative, lasting a moment in time or for years

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|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Working at a restaurant or law firm | • Acting in a school play |
| • Helping your neighbors move in | • Reading an amazing poem |
| • Taking an interesting class | • Running for a school election |
| • Tutoring a child | • Winning a basketball game |
| • Baking cookies for the holidays | • Parents divorce |
| • Designing a website or your Facebook page | • Family illness or challenge |

People who have affected you in a significant way

- | | |
|--------------------|----------------|
| • Parents | • Hard Teacher |
| • Relatives | • Coach |
| • Mentor | • Scout leader |
| • Favorite Teacher | • Minister |
| • Siblings | • Counselor |

Other Ideas

- Academic
 - Major/minor
- Achievements
- Adventures/Risks
- Assignments, papers or projects
- Classes
- Creative Works
- College Experiences
- Elementary or junior high school
- Family
 - heritage/culture
- Favorite memories
- Favorite quotes or lyrics
- What you find relaxing
- What you do for fun
- Hobbies
- Honors
- Awards
- Ideas of yours
- Internships
- Summer Jobs (the good and bad)
- Pets
- Places you've lived or traveled
- Favorite Magazine
- Vacations
- Favorite TV shows
- Sports you play
- Games you liked when you were younger (ie. The Sims)
- Favorite Category on Pinterest

- 5) Start drawing lines to connect obvious links between entries on your map. For instance, if you have a lot of different sports you've played, connect all the different sports. If you have a lot of summer jobs or other work experience, draw lines to connect them.
- 6) Look at the connections you have made so far and try to look deeper than just the "surface connection" between entries. For example, if you've played a lot of sports, what does "sports" mean to you? Were you a leader on the team? Were you into competition-win at all costs? Were you more interested in being part of a team? Did you mostly pursue individual sports and push yourself to be the best?
- 7) Look for connecting themes or threads that run through your life. Are there any skills you use over and over again? Here are a list of themes and threads to help you pull out some that might be hidden in your map.

Wandering Map Themes & Threads

- Achievements/Awards
- Alone or with friends/others
- Animals
- Art
- Classes
- Computers
- Creative ideas
- "Doing" or "Thinking"
- Drama
- Family
- Fun
- Hobbies
- Indoors or outdoors
- Internally or externally rewarded
- Knowledge I've acquired
- Learning
- Locations
- Music
- Physically active or desk-bound
- Reading
- Research
- Risky or safe
- Roles I've played in family or elsewhere
- Solving problems
- Subjects-topics of interests
- Things I want to change
- Tools
- Types of people
- What comes naturally to me

Skills & Talents

- Analytical
- Artistic
- Communication
- Computer
- Counseling
- Creative thinking
- Detail/follow-through
- Interpersonal “People”
- Research/Investigative
- Leadership/Management
- Manual
- Negotiating
- Numerical/Financial
- Organizational
- Outdoor/Athletic
- Presentation/Performing
- Problem Solving
- Serving/Helping
- Teaching/Instruction
- Thinking Strategically

What’s Important to Me

- Adventure
- Creativity
- Family
- Harmony
- Justice
- Leisure
- Prestige
- Security
- Spirituality
- Challenge
- Friendship
- Diversity
- Health
- Leadership
- Physical work
- Productivity
- Self-expression
- variety
- Contribution
- Expertise
- Fun
- Independence
- Learning/knowledge
- Power
- Recognition
- Service
- Wealth

Activity taken from: Brooks, K. (2009). *You majored in what?*. New York, New York: Penguin Group.