Organizing Research

Ithough inspiration is sometimes 99 percent perspiration, when you write there are ways you can painlessly bring your creative thoughts to a well-written conclusion. Use the steps below to guide you from your first moment of inspiration to your research summary.

STEP 1: Brainstorm effectively. Write your initial ideas into the space marked "Ideas" below, connecting each idea to others with arrows or lines to indicate how one flows into the next.

STEP 2: Research these ideas and record your notes. General: Begin at an Internet search engine, typing in broad keywords you came up with during your brainstorm. Specific: Look at finished robots and think of things you could add to make them better.

STEP 3: In the "Research Summary" column, write down your thoughts in a paragraph that explains, in layperson's terms, your research and product goals. Include project details about design and function for your reader.

Ideas	Notes	Research Summary

Review the chart above and check that you included details about form, function, and final steps.

- FORM: shape and design of robotic device
- FUNCTION: purpose of device
- FINAL STEPS: how you plan to execute your ideas with appropriate materials