



ASSOCIATION

Make a personal connection.
This reminds me of...
Something similar I've experienced is...



AMPLIFICATION

Make a research-based connection.
A related fact is...
I don't know and want to find out about...



BIBLIOMANCY

Open a dictionary, thesaurus, book of poetry, or book of images to a random page and force a connection.



CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

Take images and notes on a theme or from a week's note making and put them in one space. What new connections do you notice?



DISCIPLINES

Let go of predefined distinctions and contextualize your ideas as you wish, without thought of the 'rules' of a specific discipline.



EVENTS

What was happening in the year a text was created? Either in the world or in the life of the author/artist. What was happening for you?



FRESH EYES

Feed your senses. Go for a walk. Look at illustrated books. Focus on your breath. Learn something new. Seek beauty.



GENRE CHANGE

Change genres to find new connections. How might the novel you're reading or a poem or graphic text relate to a nonfiction topic, and vice versa.



HYPERBOLE

Go ahead and exaggerate. Push the idea to an extreme. What are the implications?



INCREMENTAL IMPROVEMENT

Take 5 minutes and add something to a note — an association, an amplification, a link.



JUXTAPOSITION

Contrast two ideas with a focus on their differences. If visual images, you might also play with scale.



KALEIDOSCOPE

"There is no such thing as a new idea. We simply take a lot of old ideas and put them in a sort of mental kaleidoscope. We give them a turn, and they make new and curious combinations." Mark Twain



LIST

Make a list. Just putting random thoughts about the concept in list form can open up new connections.



METAPHOR

Connect abstract to concrete or vice versa. How is a dream a nest? Time a cave? A rug like insight?



MAPPING

Organizing spatially with line, shape and colour is one of the best ways to identify gaps where connective notes are needed.



NOUNS

Choose a noun from a note you've made and write a new note. This is a particularly ripe technique for personal associations.



YES

Take an opposite position to what you believe. Argue against yourself.



OPPOSITES

Take an idea and play with its opposite. This can be intense (birth/death) or playful. Poet Jack Prelutsky wrote about two meals, one overcooked, one under.



PLAYLIST

Use your senses. What's the playlist or soundtrack for this idea?



PERSPECTIVES

What are the various perspectives? Edward Humes says there are 10 for every event depending on what you want to emphasize.



QUESTIONS

Have a question about your topic in mind as you go through your day. When your mind is primed, serendipity has a way of assisting.



QUOTES

Look for a relevant quote. Use as a starting point for a new connection. "Quotes about..." in a search engine usually does it.



READ

Especially more fiction because fiction stimulates imagination, which is often what allows you to make new connections.



STORY

Is there an underlying story to your idea? Something in myth, legend or a movie that you can connect to?



THEME or THEORY

If it's art or fiction you are writing about, what's the big theme? If nonfiction, what are the underlying theories? Once identified, it's easier to look from multiple perspectives.



UNIQUE

What is one thing that is unique or novel about your topic?



VISUAL IMAGES

Whether you save them in your PKM or not, slowing down and really looking at photos and artworks will bring new and rich connections to your notes.



WRITE EVERYDAY

Connections come more readily when you've spent even a few minutes in your PKM every day.



XRAY

What are the bones of the topic, its underlying structure? Knowing this can make it easier to find the gaps.



ZANY

We have a tendency to default to the most obvious. Break that. Go for the zaniest.