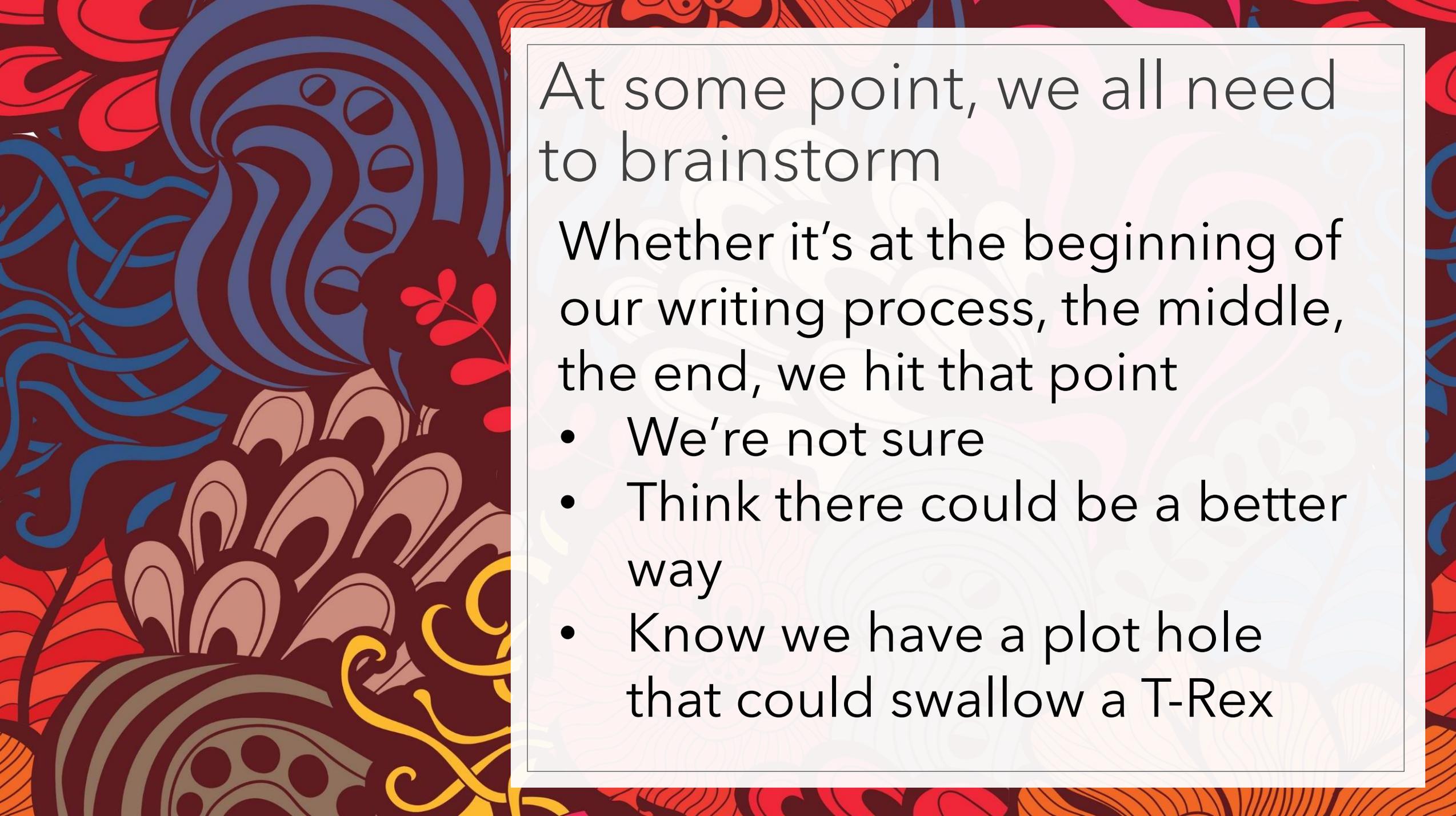


BRAINSTORMING YOUR CREATIVE WRITING

Shari Heinrich

(Using some materials from 2019 presentation
by Robin Gianakopoulos)



At some point, we all need
to brainstorm

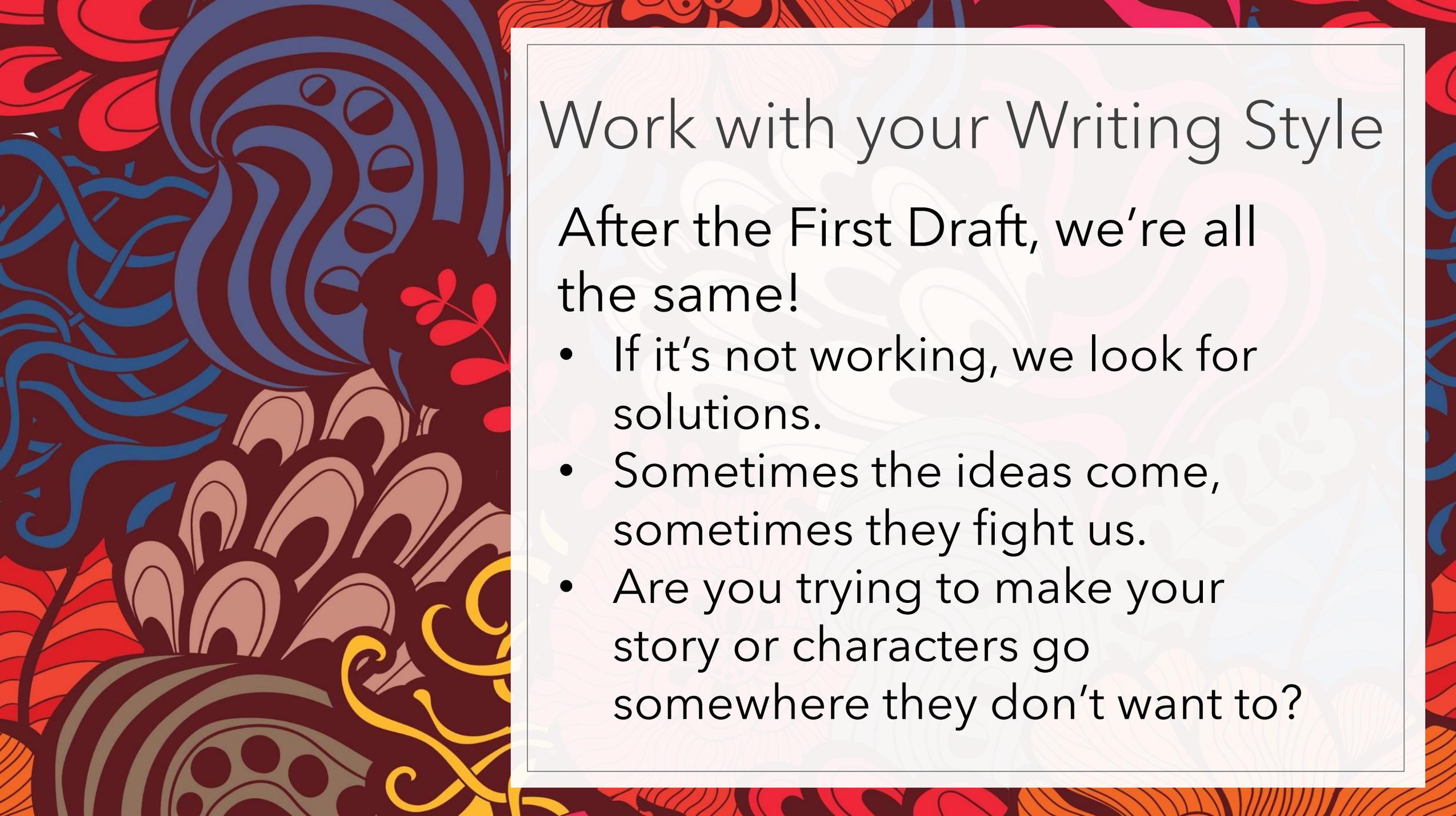
Whether it's at the beginning of
our writing process, the middle,
the end, we hit that point

- We're not sure
- Think there could be a better
way
- Know we have a plot hole
that could swallow a T-Rex

Work with your Writing Style

First Draft:

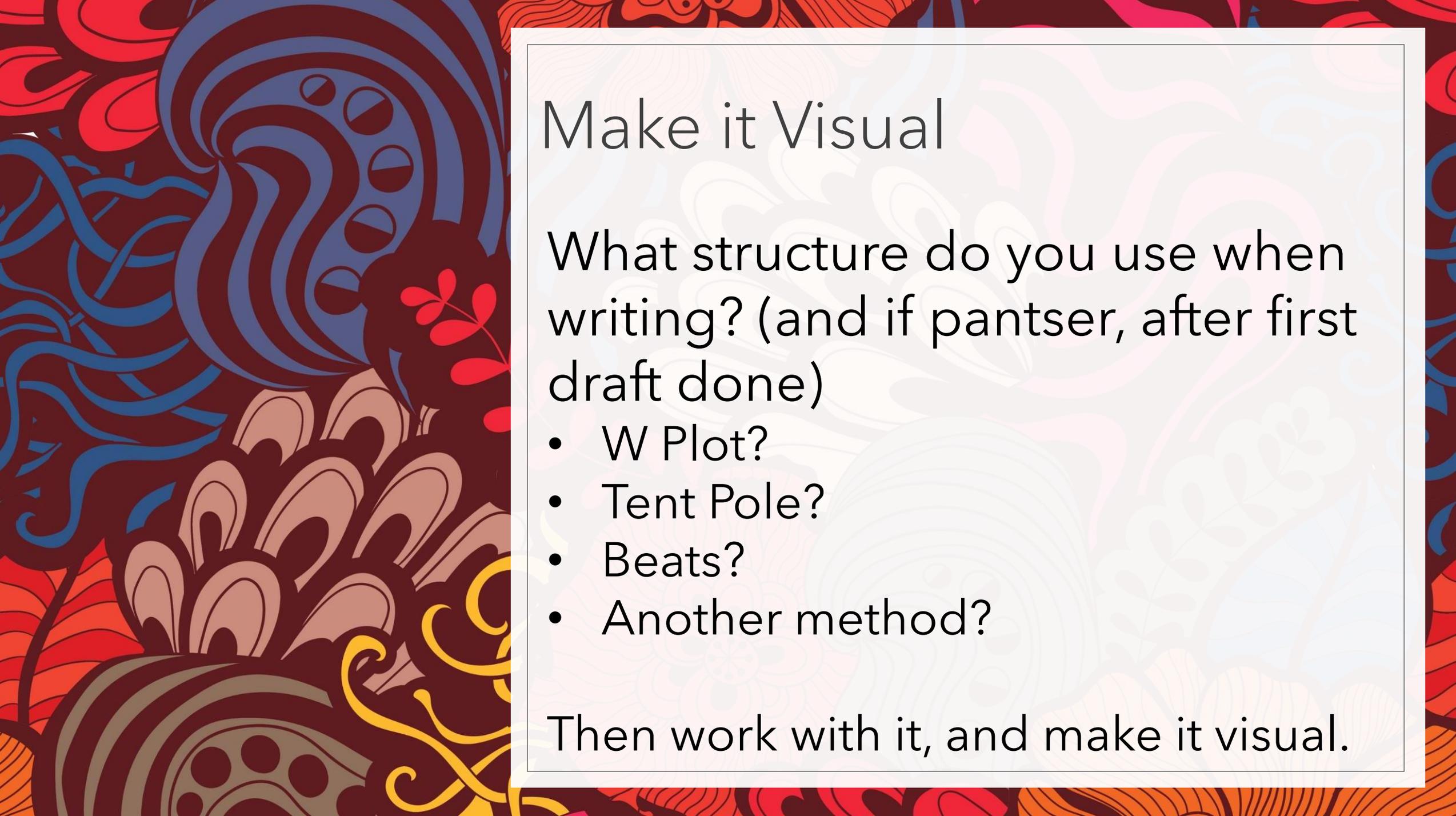
- Plotter? Brainstorming at the beginning.
- Pantser? Brainstorming to get started.
- Planster? Brainstorming as needed



Work with your Writing Style

After the First Draft, we're all the same!

- If it's not working, we look for solutions.
- Sometimes the ideas come, sometimes they fight us.
- Are you trying to make your story or characters go somewhere they don't want to?



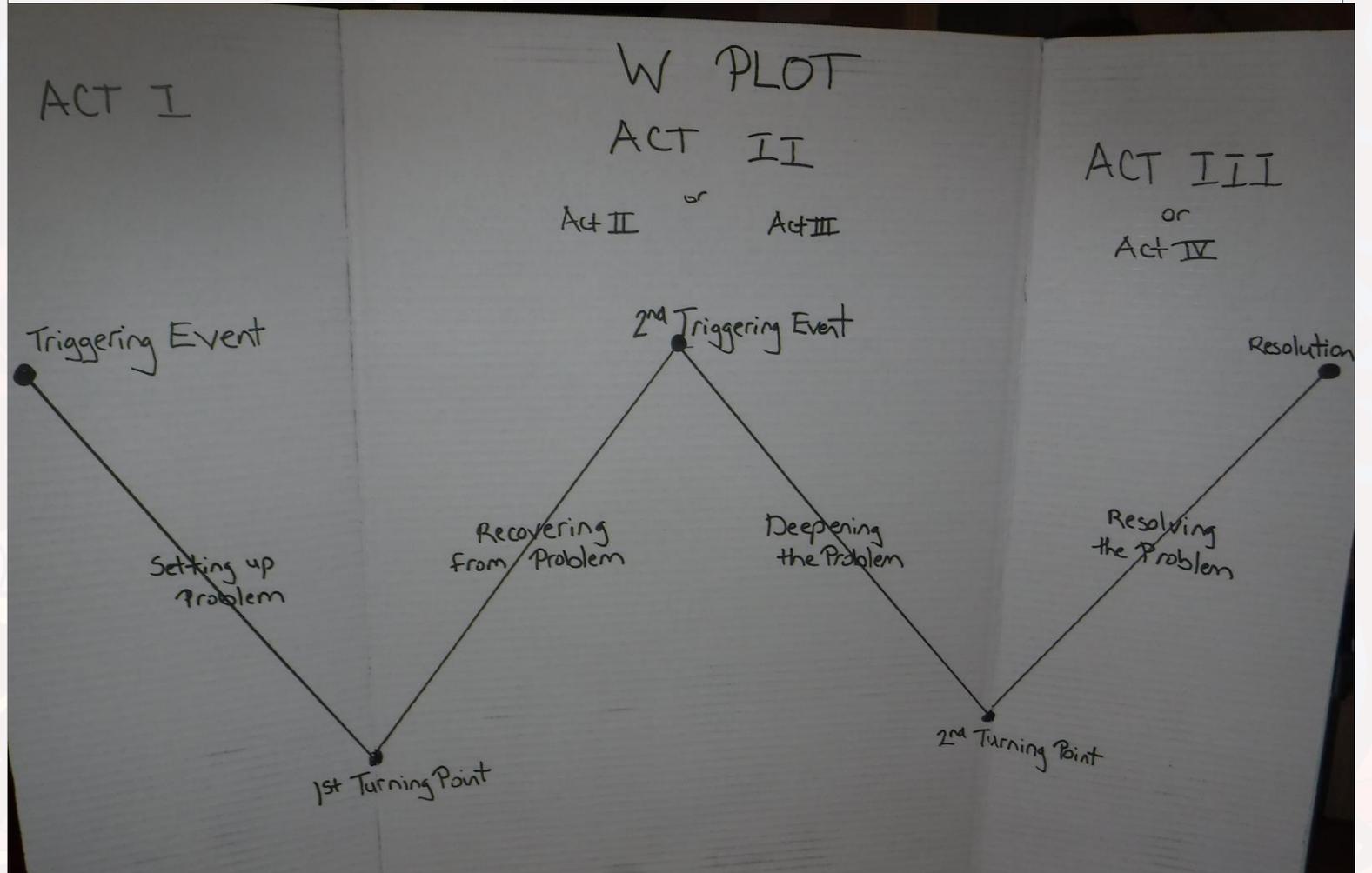
Make it Visual

What structure do you use when writing? (and if pantsier, after first draft done)

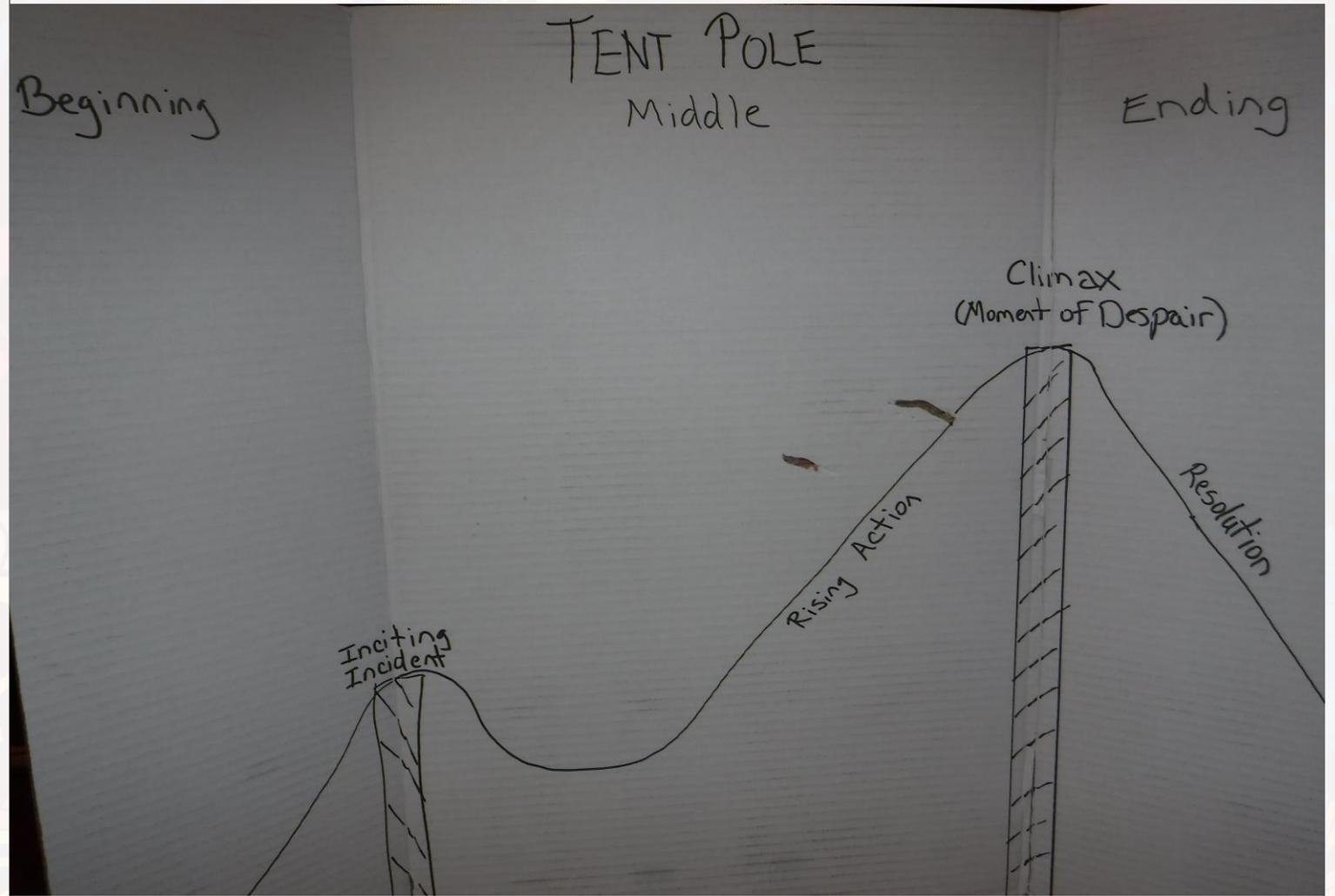
- W Plot?
- Tent Pole?
- Beats?
- Another method?

Then work with it, and make it visual.

W Plot



Tent Pole

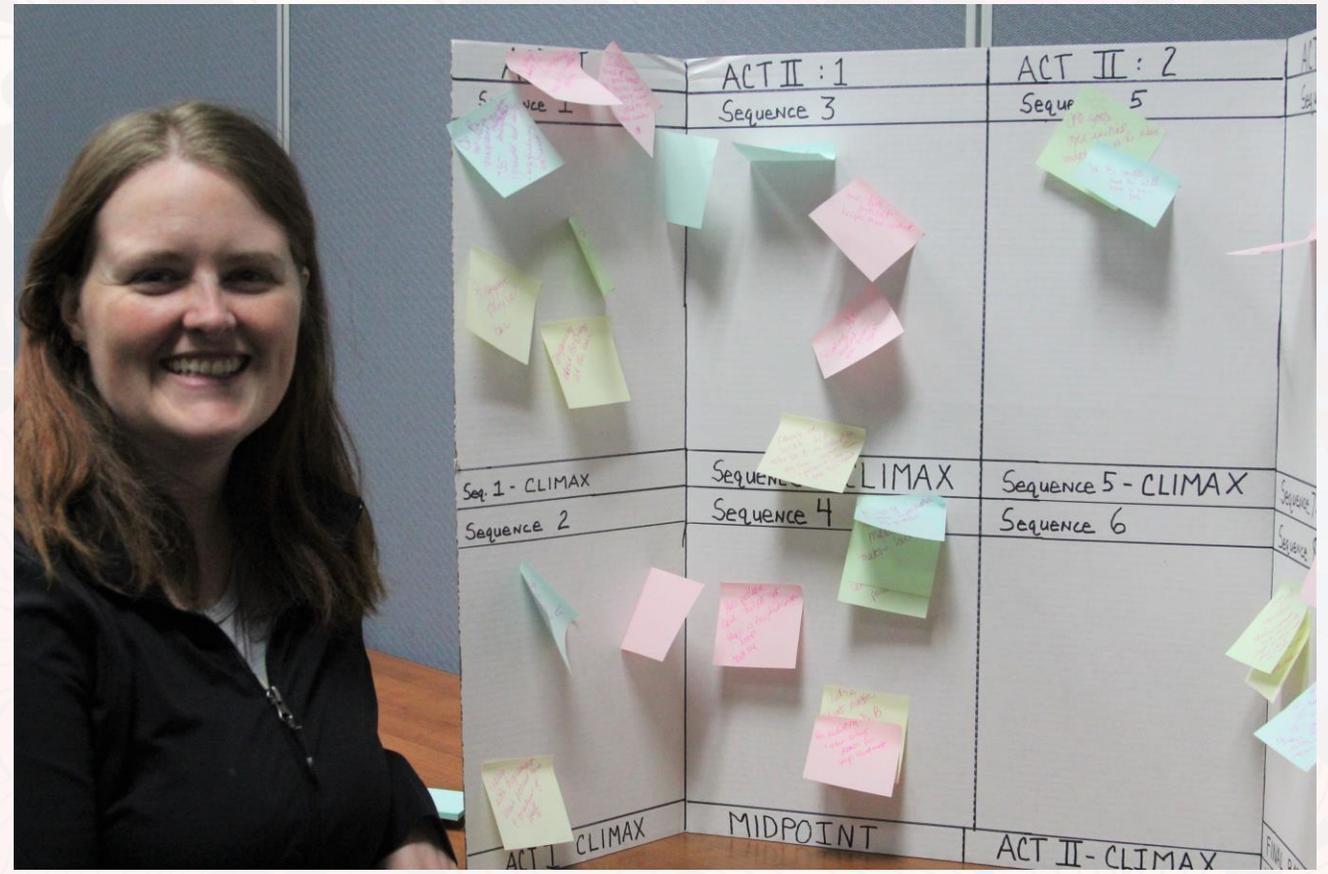


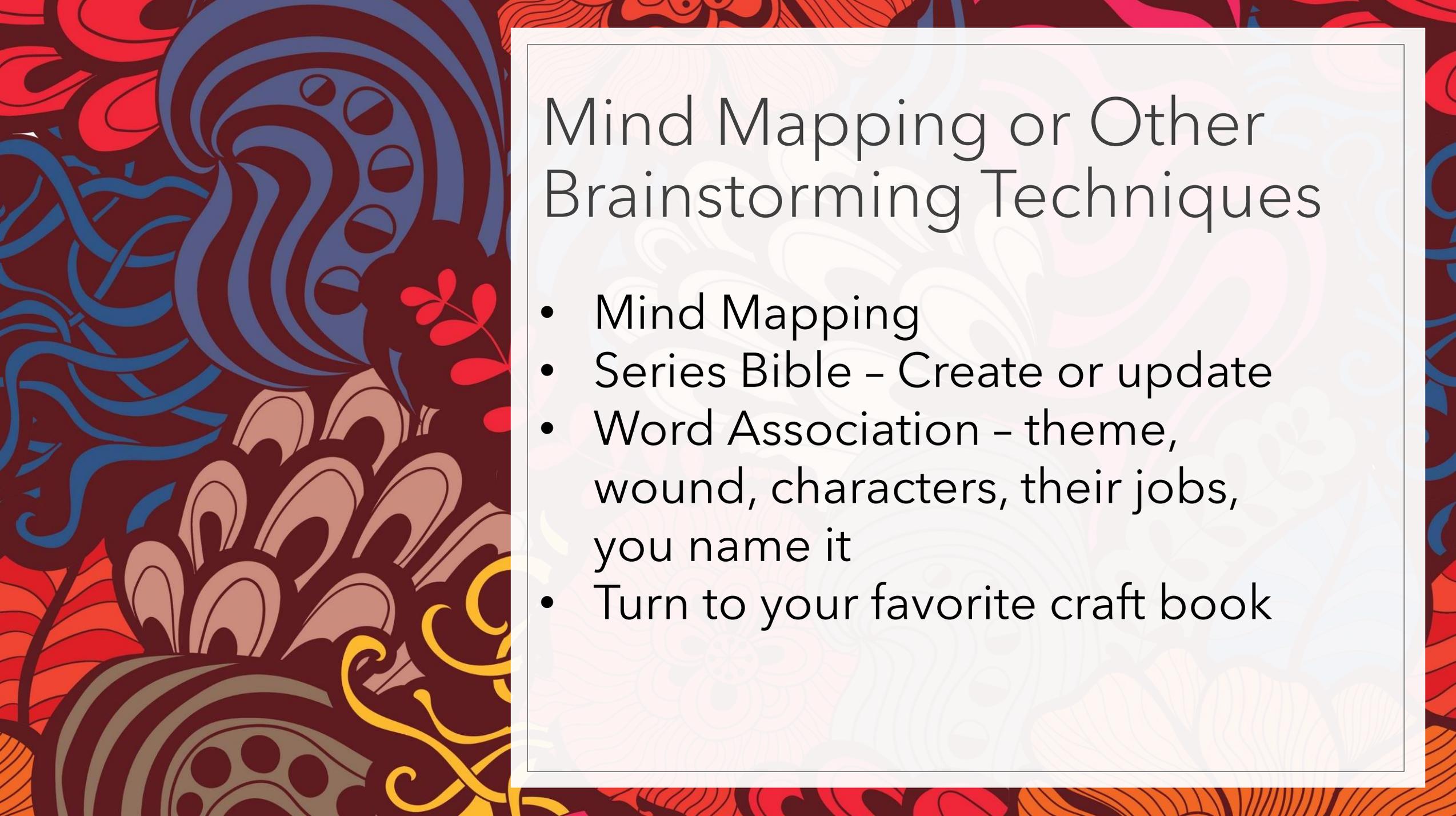
Beats

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACT I Sequence 1 | ACT II:1 Sequence 3 | ACT II:2 Sequence 5 | ACT III Sequence 7 |
| Seq. 1 CLIMAX Sequence 2 | Seq. 3 CLIMAX Sequence 4 | Seq. 5 CLIMAX Sequence 6 | Seq. 7 CLIMAX Sequence 8 |
| CLIMAX | MIDPOINT | ACT II CLIMAX | FINAL BATTLE RESOLUTION |

Juliette Hyland, Brainstorming

Rachel Dye, writing as Juliette Hyland, brainstorms one of her now-published Harlequin Medical Romance books during the March 2019 program by Robin Gianakopoulos.





Mind Mapping or Other Brainstorming Techniques

- Mind Mapping
- Series Bible - Create or update
- Word Association - theme, wound, characters, their jobs, you name it
- Turn to your favorite craft book

Mind Mapping

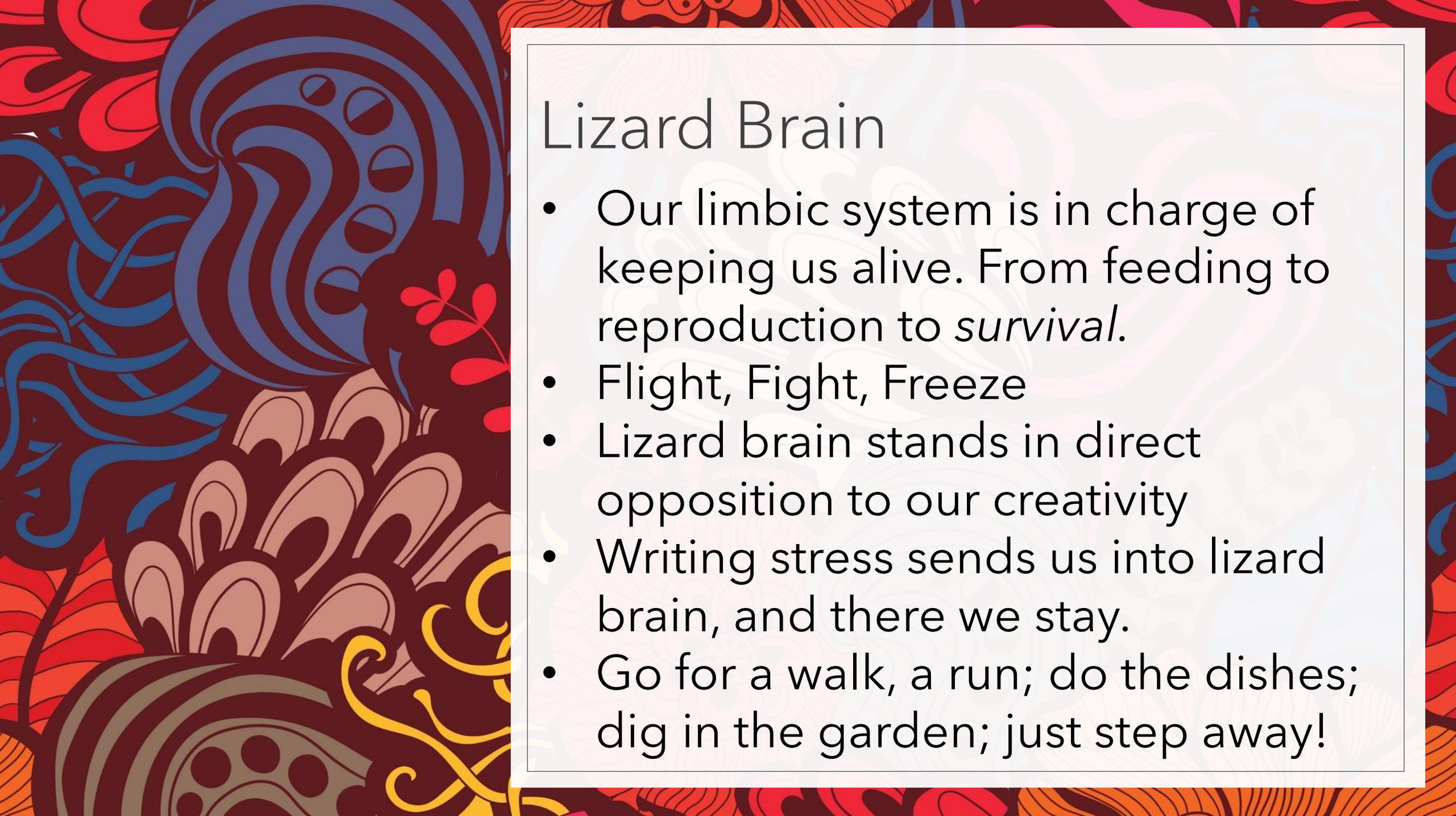


Favorite Books, Structure

- *Romancing the Beat*, Gwen Hayes
- *Goal, Motivation & Conflict*, Debra Dixon
- *Planning Your Novel: Ideas and Structure*, Janice Hardy
- *Writing the Breakout Novel & WtBN Workbook*, Donald Maass
- *Powerful Premise: Writing the Irresistible*, William Bernhardt

Favorite Books, Pieces Parts

- *The Emotion Thesaurus*, Angela Ackerman & Becca Puglisi
- *The Emotional Wound Thesaurus*, Angela Ackerman & Becca Puglisi
- *Writer's Guide to Character Traits*, Linda N Edelstein, Ph.D.



Lizard Brain

- Our limbic system is in charge of keeping us alive. From feeding to reproduction to *survival*.
- Flight, Fight, Freeze
- Lizard brain stands in direct opposition to our creativity
- Writing stress sends us into lizard brain, and there we stay.
- Go for a walk, a run; do the dishes; dig in the garden; just step away!

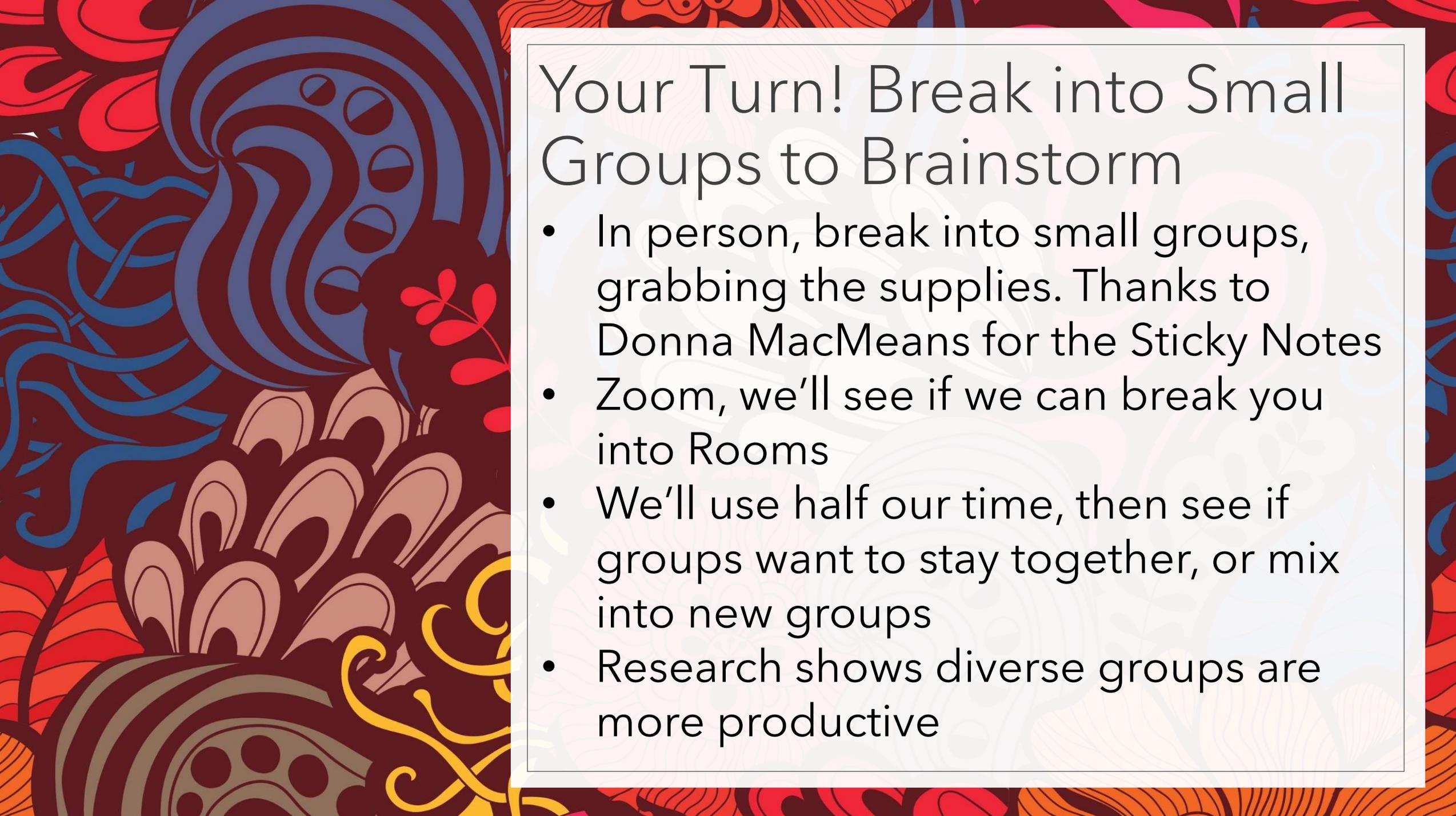
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Shari Heinrich (she/her) writes young adult fantasy where magic drives her characters. Filled with sass and heart, those teens won't back down when it comes to protecting their friends, their family, or their dreams

Shari Heinrich
Magic with
Sass and Heart





Your Turn! Break into Small Groups to Brainstorm

- In person, break into small groups, grabbing the supplies. Thanks to Donna MacMeans for the Sticky Notes
- Zoom, we'll see if we can break you into Rooms
- We'll use half our time, then see if groups want to stay together, or mix into new groups
- Research shows diverse groups are more productive