

Writing & IDEA Maps

Good writing is an essential skill in school and life.

Good writing consists of 5 steps

Pre-Writing which allows us to generate ideas, organize thoughts and prepare for the writing of the first draft. May use IDEA Map – (*see other side*)

If an assignment, consider key words:

- **purpose** such as ‘discuss’ or ‘compare’
- **topic** tells what you are writing about
- **focus** which limits the topic.

For example ‘discuss (key) the impact of computers (topic) on college students (focus)’

Writing or First Draft

- focus is on the content, not the mechanics
- should be written quickly
- if trouble here return to Pre-writing stage

Revising

- revise the words, check order flow
- provide better sequencing
- add or take away sentences

Editing

- proofread for mechanics / grammar
- Editing checklists can be used:
 - C** Capitalization
 - O** Organization
 - P** Punctuation/Paragraphs
 - S** Sentences/Spelling

Publishing

- puts our writing out to the public
- lets others read our writing
- helps our clarify our work
- generates new ideas
- validates our writing

Publish in newsletters, class books, bulletin boards, contests, do readings for anyone, tape it, perform the writing, etc. Use the opportunity for feedback and improve your writing.

Use the Writing Steps for all of your Writing

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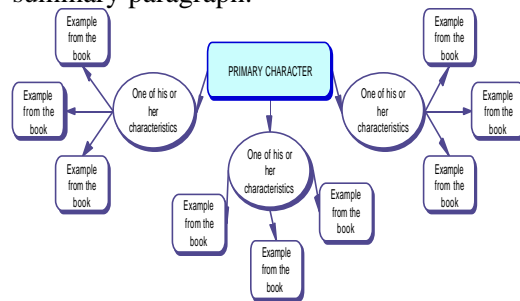
IDEA Maps

Use IDEA Maps for **Pre-writing** to assist you to generate and organize your ideas.

- Use blank pre-made maps
- Hand draw your own maps
- Use computer programs such as

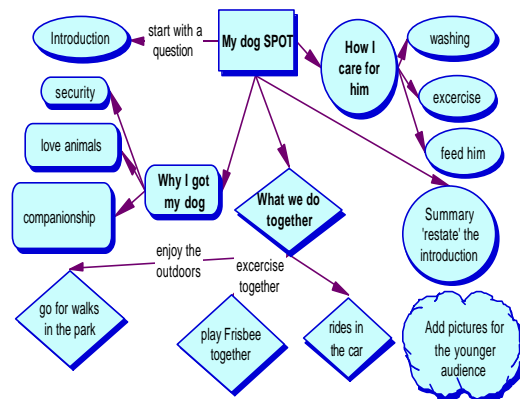
Inspiration to create your IDEA map and then turn it into an outline automatically

Suppose you are asked to produce a **character analysis** for a story, your IDEA map may look like this where you fill in each of the windows and then write a five paragraph essay: introduction, three paragraphs of characteristics and a summary paragraph.



Create your own IDEA map using:

- **Identify** your main idea or topic and place it centrally on your page
- **Diagram** all you know around the main idea
- **Evaluate** the ideas for connection to the main idea and level of importance
- **Add** in connecting words between the ideas while thinking of your role, audience & format



Use the Steps of Writing for all your writing And IDEA Maps to help in your Pre-writing

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