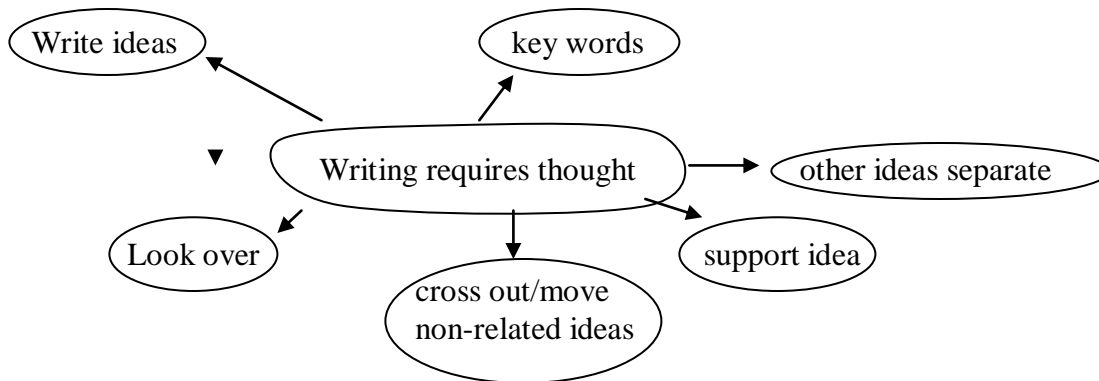


ESL Miss Owens – Writing Tips

For a paragraph: One main thought with sentences that support and back it up.

Writing requires thought in order to write well. For example, write down all the ideas you have about the subject. Use key words and thoughts; you don't need to write sentences yet. Make sure all the ideas that go together are listed. If you have another key idea, write the idea and its key thoughts on a different paper. Look at all your notes. Any information that doesn't go with that idea should be crossed out or moved to another main idea section. Your one sentence that sums up all the ideas is called the "main idea" or "topic sentence." Everything else proves or backs up this one sentence.



For an essay: One main idea (thesis statement) that will be proved through two to five (2 – 5) main ideas. Essay includes: introduction, one paragraph per main idea, conclusion.

- A. Paragraph 1: The introduction includes the introduction to the topic, thesis statement, and the main ideas that support the thesis.
 - B. Paragraph 2: first main idea (topic sentence) that backs up the thesis with supporting details;
 - C. Paragraph 3: second main idea (topic sentence) that backs up the thesis with supporting details;
 - D. Paragraph 4: main idea (topic sentence) that backs up the thesis with supporting details;
 - E. Paragraph 5: Conclusion – restate thesis statement, NO NEW ideas; predict future implications or importance.
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- A. Write a few sentences that introduce the subject of the thesis. Write the thesis. List the 2 – 5 main ideas separately or summed up in one sentence.
 - B. Transition to the first main idea. Write and describe all the supporting details.
 - C. Transition to the second main idea. Write and describe all the supporting details. Transition to the final main idea.
 - D. State the final main idea. Write and describe all the supporting details. Transition to the conclusion.
 - E. Sum up all the main ideas, restating the thesis in a different format. State any further future meaning or the importance of the thesis on current times. DO NOT add any new information.

When writing, be sure to use as much detail as possible – color, size, shape, sound, etc. Try not to use words such as: *very, really, just, so, then, and*. Do not use general words such as: *things, stuff, ideas*; list specific examples instead. Be descriptive.