

# ***INVENTION (PREWRITING)***

# *Introduction*

This presentation will help you with Invention and Invention Strategies.

Invention consists of two steps:

- Plan your writing process
  
- Explore your rhetorical situation:
  - Purpose
  - Audience
  - Genre (e.g. academic, professional)
  - Type of research you need to conduct

# *Invention Strategies*

## **Ask critical questions:**

Classical topics, stasis questions, tagmemics.

## **Freewrite and brainstorm:**

Record ideas without revising or proofreading.

## **Map and cluster:**

Invent and organize ideas visually to explore relationships & processes.

## **Keep a journal:**

Write personal explorations or reflections on ideas.

# Ask Critical Questions: Classical Topics



## Compare and contrast:

- What is \_\_\_\_\_ similar to?
- What is \_\_\_\_\_ different from?

## Definition:

- Dictionary definition of \_\_\_\_\_?
- What group of things does this \_\_\_\_\_ belong to?
- What are some concrete examples of the \_\_\_\_\_?

<http://dictionary.reference.com/>

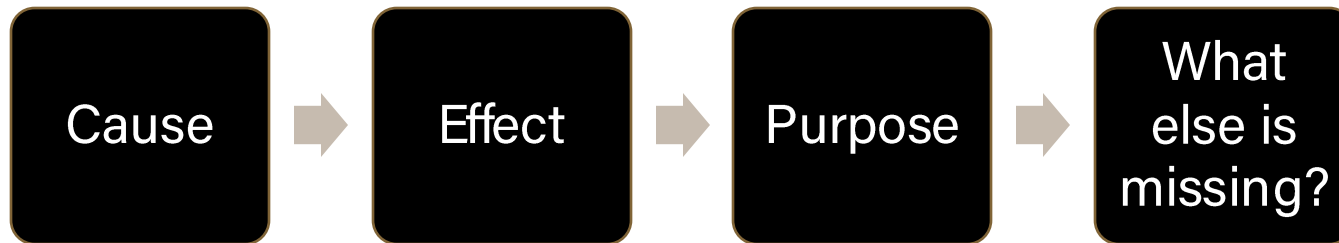
**tag·me·mics**  [tag-**mee**-miks]  [Show IPA](#)

**noun** ( *used with a singular verb* ) Linguistics .

a school of linguistics deriving from American structuralism based on the work of Kenneth Lee Pike and using the tagmeme as the basic unit of grammatical analysis.

# Ask Critical Questions: Classical Topics

## Relationship:



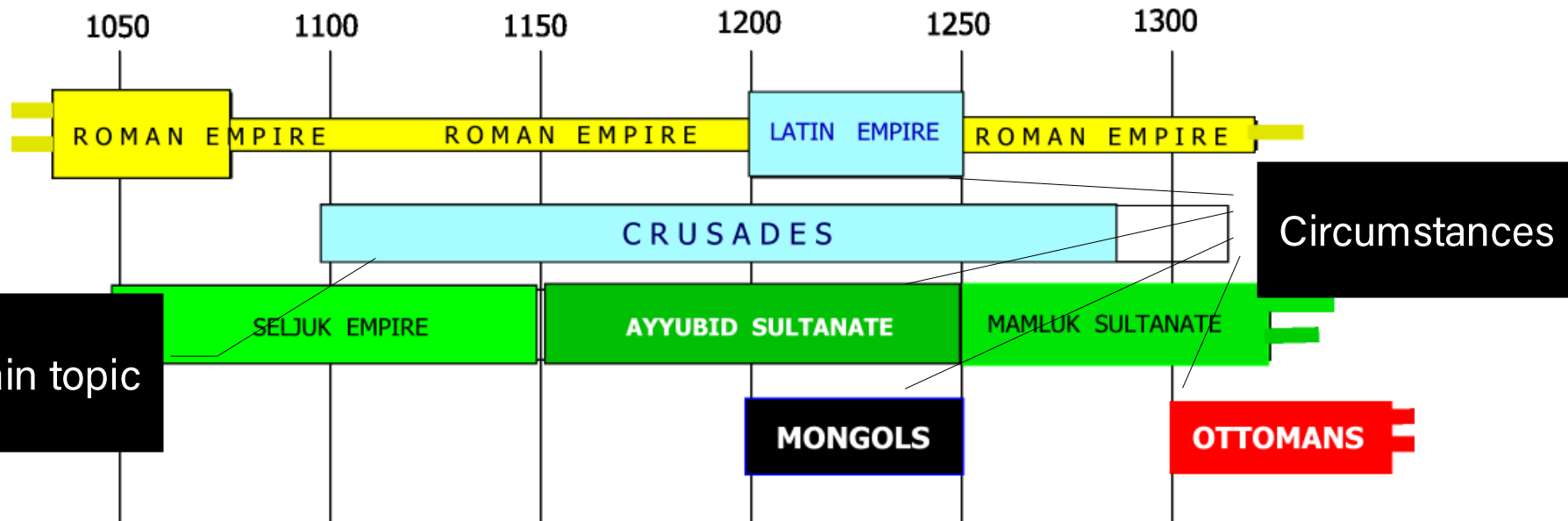
## Testimony:

- What have I heard people say about \_\_\_\_\_?
- What are some facts and stats about \_\_\_\_\_?

# Asking Critical Questions: Classical Topics

## Circumstances:

- Is \_\_\_\_\_ possible/impossible?
- What makes \_\_\_\_\_ possible/ impossible?
- When did \_\_\_\_\_ happen?
- What would prevent \_\_\_\_\_ from happening?



# *Ask Critical Questions: Stasis Topics*

## **Fact:**

- Is there an issue?
- How did it begin and what are its causes?
- What changed to create the issue?
- Who is involved?

## **Definition:**

- What exactly is the issue?
- What is it not?
- What kind of an issue is it?

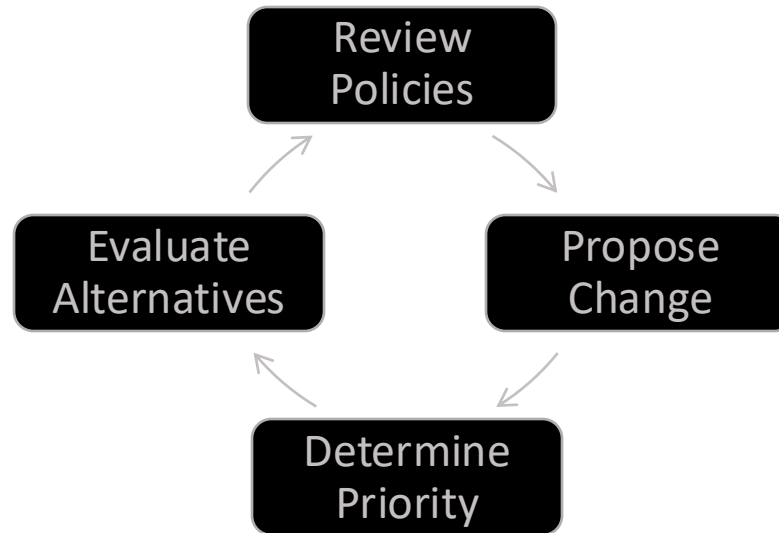
# Ask Critical Questions: Stasis Topics

## Quality:

- How serious is the issue?
- What are the costs of the issue?

## Policy:

- Who should address this issue?



# *Ask Critical Questions: Tagmemics*

## **Contrastive Features:**

- How is \_\_\_\_\_ different from things similar to it?
- How has it been different for me?

## **Variation:**

- How much can \_\_\_\_\_ change and still be itself?
- How is \_\_\_\_\_ changing?
- What are the different varieties of \_\_\_\_\_?

# *Ask Critical Questions: Tagmemics*

## **Distribution:**

- Where and when does \_\_\_\_\_ take place?
- What is the larger thing of which \_\_\_\_\_ is a part?
- What is the function of \_\_\_\_\_ in this larger thing?

## **Distribution:**

- Describe it (colors, shapes, etc.)
- Compare it (what is it similar to?)
- Associate it (makes you think of?)
- Analyze it (how is it made?)
- Apply it (uses)
- Argue for or against it

# Freewriting

Write paragraphs; sentences do not have to be finished

- Look at the topic and think about it briefly.
- Set your timer to 5 minutes
- Ready? Set?

**Start**

- Don't stop! Don't edit!
- When time is up, you can finally look over your ideas.

# *Brainstorming*

Note key words or phrases in list form under your subject

- Look at the topic and think about it.
- Set your timer to 5 minutes
- Ready? Set?

**Start**

- Keep your list going the entire time.
- When time is up, you can finally look over your ideas.



# *Keep a Personal Journal*

Personal reflection:

- Why is this important to me?
- How does it relate to me?
- How do I feel about it?
- How did I feel about this in the past?
- How might my connection to this change in the future?

# *Keep a Personal Journal*

Storytelling (create a story about your topic)

- How do the characters deal with the situation?
- Why do they react the way they do?
- How does the story end, and how does it reflect how you want the real life situation to end?
- What would you have to do to bring about this change?

# *Recap: Invention Strategies*

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# ***THANK YOU***

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