

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/>

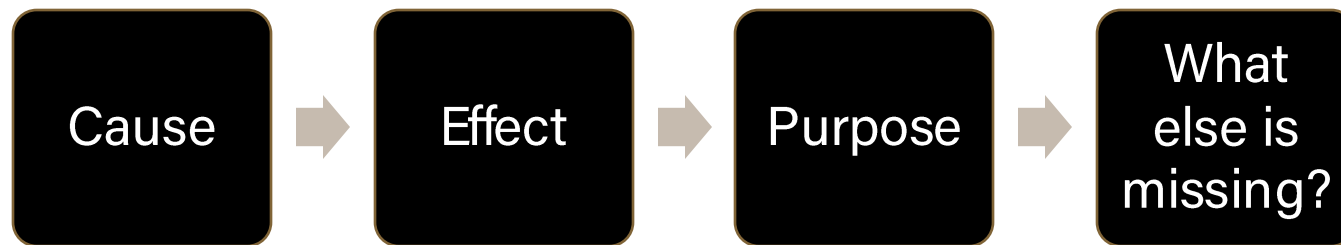
tag·me·mics  [tag-mee-miks]  [Show IPA](#)

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:



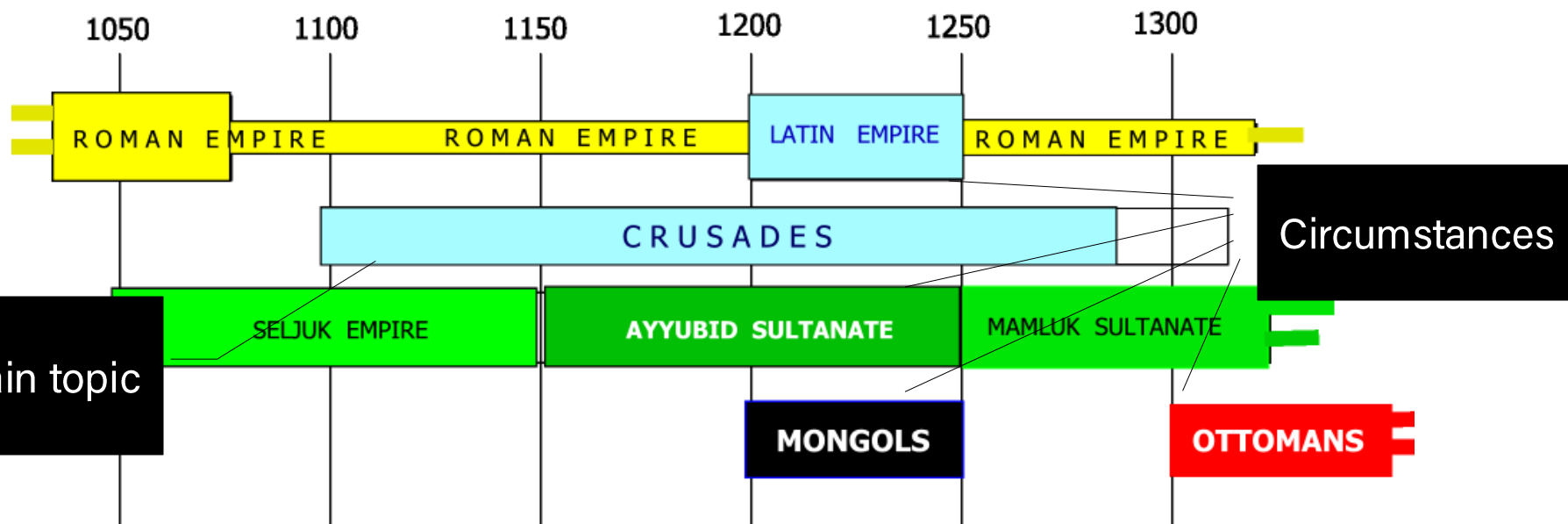
Testimony:

- 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?

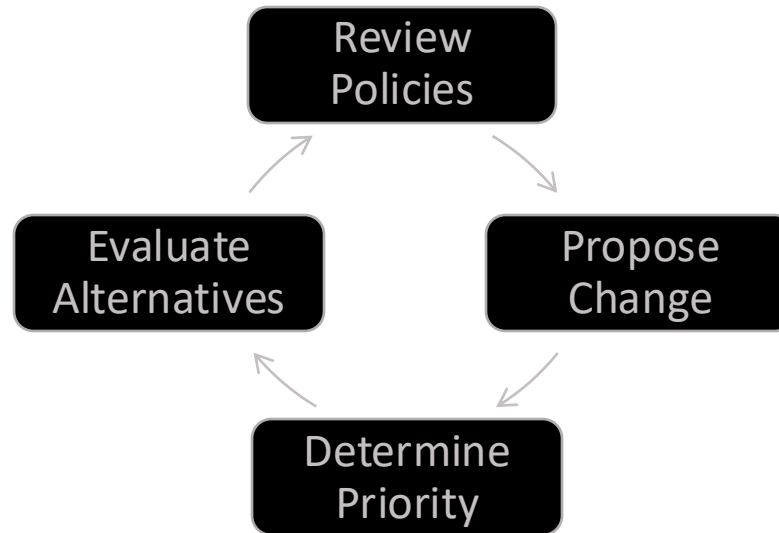
Ask Critical Questions: Stasis Topics

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

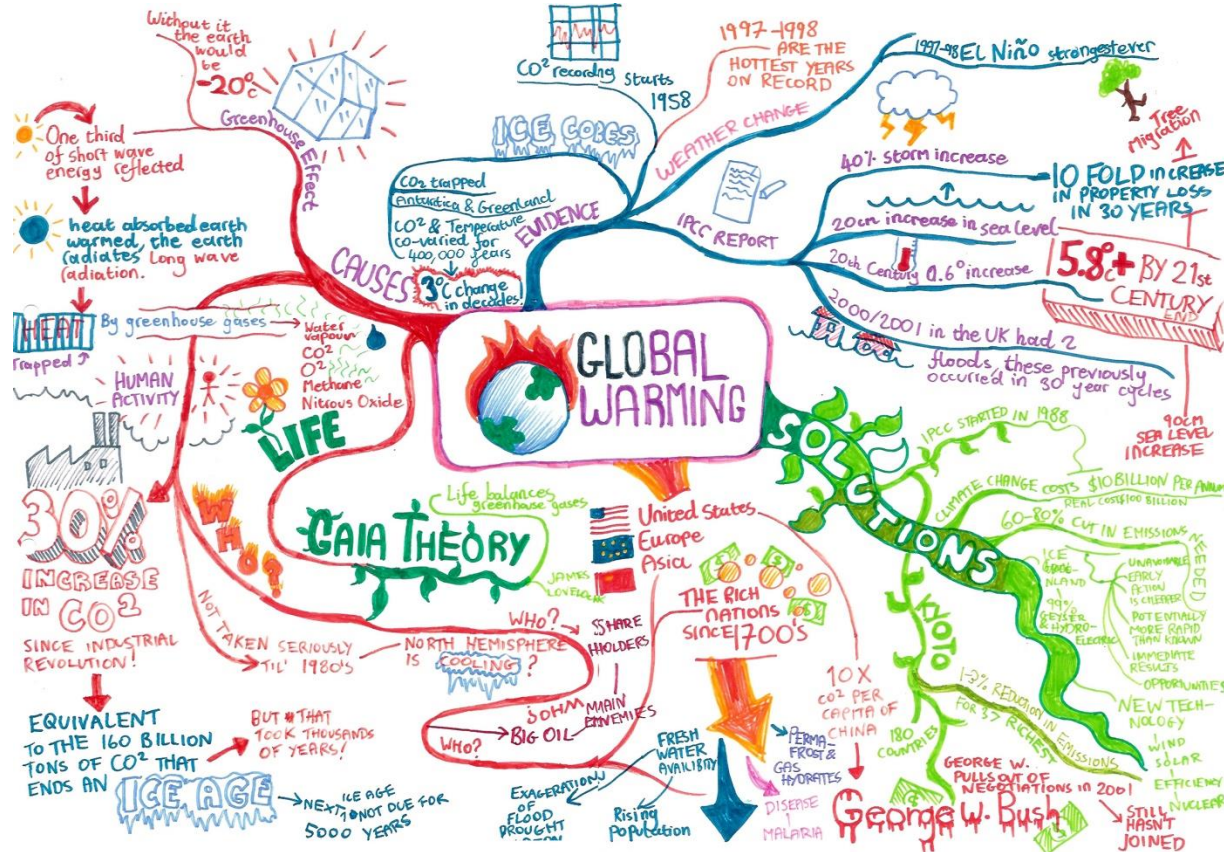
- Look at the topic and think about it.
- Set your timer to 5 minutes
- Ready? Set?

Start

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

Map and Cluster

Start with a central word; as related concepts pop in your head, indicate them as branches, arrows, bubbles, etc.



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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