

From Torment to Triumph

Strategies for Supporting Essay Composition

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Dr. Tiffany Watson

Torment

Written Expression: the ability to convey meaning through writing (Progressive Therapy Associates)

- Challenges:
 - Generating ideas
 - Constructing meaningful sentences
 - Sequencing and organizing their ideas into paragraphs
 - Using grammar appropriately
 - Handwriting
 - Punctuation and spelling (Dyslexia-SPELD Foundation)

Torment

Executive Function: a set of processes that all have to do with managing oneself and one's resources in order to achieve a goal (LD Online)

- Challenges:
 - Paying attention
 - Remembering information
 - Multi-tasking
 - Planning
 - Organization
 - Time management (Healthline)

Triumph: Strategies to Support Composition

Resources:

- Project Read® - Framing Your Thoughts®, [Paragraph Writing](#)
- Hochman Basic Writing Skills Program - [The Writing Revolution®](#)
- Google Docs
- Read&Write for Google Chrome™

Find the PowerPoint and links to all forms here: <https://bit.ly/2E9HT4I>

Triumph: Strategies to Support Composition

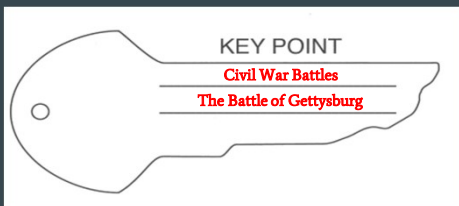
Step 1: Choose a key point.

- **Teacher-Driven**
- **Considerations:**
 - Relevant to curriculum
 - Research available
 - Broad enough for multiple perspectives
 - Individualized

Step 1: Key Point

Key Point: Framing Your Thoughts®

- Support through guiding questions.



Think, Pair, Share

What assignments are some key points you could pull in for writing?

- Is it relevant?
- Will there be research?
- Is it broad?
- Can it be individualized?

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Step 2: Brainstorm

- **Purpose:**
 - Provides purpose for reading (Comprehension)
 - Provides context for writing (Written Expression)
 - Supports planning and task initiation (Executive Function)
- **Function:**
 - Chunks the topic into manageable pieces.
 - Elementary: Given categories, list ideas for possible facts
 - Middle/High School: Given the organizer, list categories and ideas within

Step 2: Brainstorm

Introduction:
What are you researching? The Battle of Gettysburg

Why are you researching this? It was an important turning point in the American Civil War.

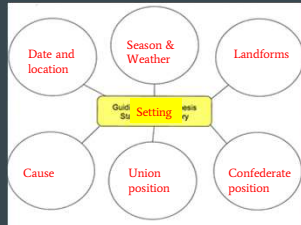
Setting
Dates, location
Season, weather
Landforms

Major Generals
Names, battle plans,
prior victories,
motivation

Major Events
Charges, retreats,
deaths, surrender

Results/Impact
Winner, death toll,
Union reaction,
Confederate reaction

Conclusion:
When you finish, give a summary of your research.



Graphic Organizers

Think, Pair, Share

Think back to one of the key topics you shared earlier.

- How many body paragraphs would you want in the essay?
- What would the categories be?
- Would those categories have enough research for a full paragraph?
- Would students generate the categories?

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Step 3: Research

- Purpose
 - Provides the details needed for writing
 - Exposes students to relevant curriculum content
- Google Read&Write
 - Read text aloud
 - Highlight important information
 - Compile highlights into Google Docs

Step 3: Research

Resources for Research



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Step 4: Outline

- **Purpose:**
 - Allows students to paraphrase information
 - Sequences facts for paragraph fluency
 - Shifts focus from comprehension to expression
- **Research Organizer**
 - Color-coded
 - Paraphrasing (2-5 words per line)
 - Transitions supported
 - Guiding questions for introduction and conclusion

Step 4: Outlining

<p>Introduction</p> <p>What is your central topic?</p> <p>The American Civil War had many battles.</p> <p>What is the significance of your topic? (Why is it important?)</p> <p>The Battle of Gettysburg was the turning point of the war.</p> <p>What are the important facts from which you will write?</p> <p>Many lives were lost as the Union took control of the war.</p>	<p>Topic Sentence</p> <p>The setting of the Battle of Gettysburg had an influence on its outcome.</p> <p>July 1-3, 1863, Gettysburg, PA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hot and cloudy, some rain • Hilly terrain, few woods • A Confederate invasion <p>How do you know? (Some of the most impactful leaders in the war took part in this major battle.)</p>
<p>Body Paragraph 1</p> <p>Topic Sentence</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p> <p>Transition Sentence</p>	<p>Body Paragraph 2</p> <p>Topic Sentence</p> <p>1. _____</p> <p>2. _____</p> <p>3. _____</p> <p>4. _____</p> <p>Transition Sentence</p>
<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Conclude what your research shows!</p> <p>What is your topic?</p> <p>What was the purpose of the essay? (Answer the thesis)</p>	<p>Resources</p>

Step 4: Outlining

<p>KEY POINT</p> <p>Gettysburg, PA</p> <p>Topic Sentence</p> <p>Gettysburg, PA was a famous US battle.</p> <p>Supporting Details (2-5 words that are ideas for the paragraph)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. July 1-3, 1863 B. Hot and cloudy, some rain C. Hilly terrain, few woods D. A Confederate invasion <p>Transition Sentence</p> <p>Some of the most impactful leaders in the war took part in this major battle.</p>	<p>BASIC WRITING SKILLS</p> <p>Quick Outline</p> <p>Name: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>Topic Sentence</p> <p>The setting of the Battle of Gettysburg had an influence on its outcome.</p> <p>Details (2-5 words that are ideas for the paragraph)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. July 1-3, 1863; Gettysburg, PA 2. Hot and cloudy, some rain 3. Hilly terrain, few woods 4. A Confederate invasion <p>Transition Sentence</p> <p>Some of the most impactful leaders in the war took part in this major battle.</p>
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Think, Pair, Share

Think back to the key point you have been following.

- What guiding questions would you use for the introduction?
- What would be important to include in the thesis?
- What guiding questions would you use for the conclusion?
- Would you more likely use the document with all paragraphs together or the document with separate pages for each paragraph?

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Step 5: Drafts

- **Composition**
 - Type in order
 - Color-code
 - Directly type anything that is not numbered
 - Turn numbered items into complete sentences
 - Press tab when you go to a new row in the table (or a new page)
- **Proofreading**
 - Read&Write to listen
 - Color-coded checklist by paragraph
 - Comments for expansion of ideas

Step 5: Drafts

Editing Checklist

Yellow Paragraph

- Paragraph follows the Outline
- Details are accurate facts
- Topic Sentence clearly introduces the purpose of the paragraph
- Transition Sentence connects the main idea of this paragraph to the next
- Capitalization: beginning of sentences, I, and proper nouns
- Punctuation: end of sentence and commas
- Predicate Expanders: Need at least 3
- Adjectives: Need at least 4
- Conjunctions: Need at least 1
- Proper formatting: 14-point font, Double-spaced, Indented

Summary

Steps for Essay Composition

1. Choose a **topic** (broad) and subtopic (specific)
2. **Brainstorm** (categories with ideas)
3. **Research** (Read&Write)
4. **Outline** (paraphrase and sequence)
5. **Draft** (compose and edit)

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Variations:

- Step by Step
 - Complete the visual planner
 - Research for all paragraphs
 - Outline all paragraphs (including introduction and conclusion)
 - Draft all paragraphs (including introduction and conclusion)
 - Proofread all paragraphs (including introduction and conclusion)
- Paragraph by Paragraph
 - Complete the visual planner
 - Research, outline, draft, proofread each individual paragraph
 - Compose the introduction and conclusion

Conclusion

Thank you!

Contact: Tiffany Watson, Ed.D.
twatson@theswiftschool.org
