Teach WRITING the NATURAL Way!

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How were YOU taught to write a paragraph?

1. Choose a Topic
2. Brainstorm
3. Make an Outline
4. Write a Topic Sentence
5. Write the Body Sentences
6. Write a Conclusion.
PROBLEM #1: What HAPPENS to our BRAINS when we try to write this way?
PROBLEM #2: THINKING is MESSY.

X 100,000,000,000,000 neural connections = at least 1,000 times the number of stars in our galaxy

In case you’re Wondering, that’s 20,000,000,000,000,000 bits!

20 million billion bits of information move around your brain every second!!
Summer is great.

Thinking about the summer makes me think of bathing suits.

I hate shopping for them.

I think I always look like I’ve borrowed my mom’s suit.

But I love going to the beach anyway.

Wading is my favourite activity.

Sunlight on the water relaxes me completely.
You need a **FOCUS**. “Summer” is too **BROAD** a topic to write 6-7 sentences about.

So what can we **DO**?
**TOPIC SENTENCE = Topic + Limiting Statement**

Here's a topic sentence: Let me tell you about soccer.

Is this a good topic sentence for a paragraph? Can you write six or seven sentences and tell your reader everything you want to tell them about soccer? No, the topic is too broad. We need to narrow the topic. How? One of the easiest ways is to tell something about your own experience of playing or watching soccer. But can you fit all of that into one paragraph? Probably not. So how?

**There are 7 ways to narrow a topic: Please give EXAMPLES about SOCCER.**

1. When
2. Where
3. Cause & Effect
4. Similarities
5. Differences
6. Relationships
7. Aspects (What do people need to play Soccer? What comes with Soccer?)

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Narrowing the Topic – Example 1:

- **Summer**

  - Wading at the beach in North Bay last summer

  - Wading at the beach in North Bay

  - Wading at the beach

  - Summer at the beach

  - Summer

  = MORE specific, but still TOO BROAD.

**Doing WHAT at the beach?**

**At the beach WHERE?**

**At the beach WHEN?**

This is an appropriate topic for a Descriptive or Narrative paragraph.
Narrowing the Topic – Example 2:

Summer

Heat

Heatstroke

Preventing Heatstroke

Causes, Symptoms, Prevention & Treatment of Heatstroke

GOOD, but WHAT about it?

= MORE specific, but still TOO BROAD.

This topic may be TOO NARROW for a paragraph or essay.

This is an appropriate topic for an Academic paragraph or essay.
Writing, the NATURAL Way:

Let’s TRY it!
Writing, the NATURAL Way:

1. CHOOSE a General Topic

2. Narrow the Topic

Okay, GO!
Writing, the NATURAL Way:

Look at your Specific Topic

3. BRAINSTORM everything you can think of on this topic.

Okay, GO!
4. Once you have **4-7 WORDS** in your Brainstorm that are related to your **FOCUS** ...

... you’re READY to do your **FREE WRITING.**

- Using these words, write all the sentences you want ...

... in any order!
5. The SECRET is ...

... only ONE sentence per box.

You can write as many sentences as you like.

Just make sure – ONE sentence per box!

GO!
STOP

... it’s time to practice PARAGRAPHING
-use-
PARAGRAPHING exercise - 5 different ones
TOPIC 3: How Children Benefit from Competitive Sports

1. Competitive team sports are an important part of every child’s education.

2. Because the grown-up world is very competitive, participating in sports is a good way to prepare for adulthood.

3. For example, adults compete for admission to university, for jobs, and even for spouses.

4. Children who play on a team experience the triumphs and sorrows of competition, but they also learn to cooperate because when their team succeeds, they succeed.

  o CONCLUSION:

1. Most importantly, though, children learn that winning is temporary, and losing doesn’t kill them.
6. CUT the boxes APART!

7. Look at your sentences. Find any "buddies" and put them together.

(Decide which one goes first, second, etc.)

8. ORGANIZE your sentences using one of the standard Paragraph Structures.

SO... Rather than trying to organize our MINDS, we can...

... ORGANIZE our sentences.
9. Is one of my Free-Writing sentences a good **TOPIC** Sentence? Does it have a **HOOK**?

10. Do I have a **Conclusion**?

- if not, I need to **WRITE** a topic sentence and/or a conclusion.

Canada is a country of surprising contrasts.

Meditation doesn’t have to be either religious or complicated.

Most importantly, though, children learn that winning is temporary, and losing doesn’t kill them.
11. CHECK my Brainstorm to make sure I have included all of the important ideas
12. Review & Revise using Kate’s Revision Checklist!

13. If you have time, leave your writing for a day or two, or else have someone read it aloud to you.

14. Rewrite if necessary.
... it **IS** going to take some **PRACTICE**, 

**SO** ...
Don’t WORRY. I’m providing LOTS of handouts – with Solutions!

Kate’s Method for NATURAL WRITING: (Any non-fiction writing)

1. Choose a GENre
2. NARROW the topic
3. BRAINSTORM
4. FREE WRITE – say on this topic
5. The SECRET
6. Cut up - separate sentences on separate paper
7. Look for *buds* – there are good ideas in there

- Put all the sentences into the order in which you think they should go.
- Don’t worry about grammar at this point – focus on the overall organization.
- Review your outline:
  - Are there any gaps?
  - Are there any redundant points?
- Revise and refine your outline.

“Ordinary House” – Revision Exercise

CUT OUT the following sentences, and reorganize them into a coherent paragraph. Should the writer cross out some of the sentences? Do you need to add transition words/phrases to link sentences together? Correct the paragraph. There may be several “right” ways to rewrite this paragraph.

Karen and I met at Mohawk College.
Eleven years ago, she moved to California.
We have a lot in
Practice Exercises to teach PARAGRAPHING skills.
THANKS!

You can email me at mavenk@thecentre.on.ca

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