

Drafting Strategies

There are many different strategies for drafting a paper but often we fall back on what we learned first and what many recommend for an organized logical flowing paper-**OUTLINING**. See below for a sample outline:

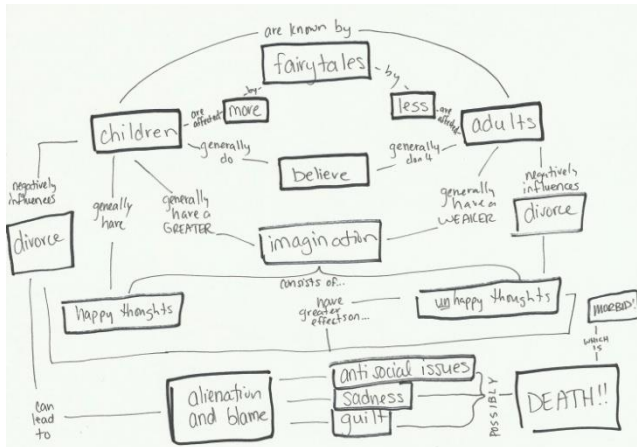
- Introduction
 - Introduce the work(s) that you will examine
 - Establish a context
 - (Argumentative) Thesis statement
- Argument #1
 - Claim
 - Evidence
 - Quote #1
 - Quote #2
 - Etc.
- Argument #2
 - Claim
 - Evidence
 - Quote #1
 - Quote #2
- Argument #3
 - Claim
 - Evidence
 - Quote #1
 - Quote #2
- Conclusion
 - Connect your claims with your thesis, but don't just stop there—take your reader in a new (but related) direction, perhaps by stating the broader importance of your analysis or by suggesting where your discussion could (and should) lead.

But outlining only works if your ideas are organized to begin.... What if they aren't?

If you are uncomfortable with the traditional outlining method above, or don't think your thoughts are organized enough, try some other methods recommended on the back, including concept maps or the notecard method.



Concept Maps



Concept maps allow you to brainstorm and see connections between sub-ideas. They also allow you to place claims and evidence to help visualize and organize your material more easily. This style of drafting works great for students who are more visually oriented or who love to doodle their ideas. Images can also be incorporated to keep the writer interested in their chosen topic. See this website for

more information (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Concept_map).

“Notecard Method”



The “notecard method” allows kinesthetic learners the opportunity to physically interact with their writing and ideas. Each notecard contains a thought, claim, or piece of evidence that can then be arranged and re-arranged into piles. The piles then receive a sticky note on topic indicating that section or argument. It builds the paper from the evidence up instead of from the argument down. You can then write an outline based on your sticky note “headers.” This method allows you to summarize the sources but then you can seek assistance in sorting and organizing them.

Remember:

For each new draft, as you revise, you want to clarify your arguments and make sure that you are connecting them to your thesis more clearly. Once you feel that everything is connected and sufficiently proven and explained, only then begin to edit for grammar and spelling.