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# Writing method for argumentative essays

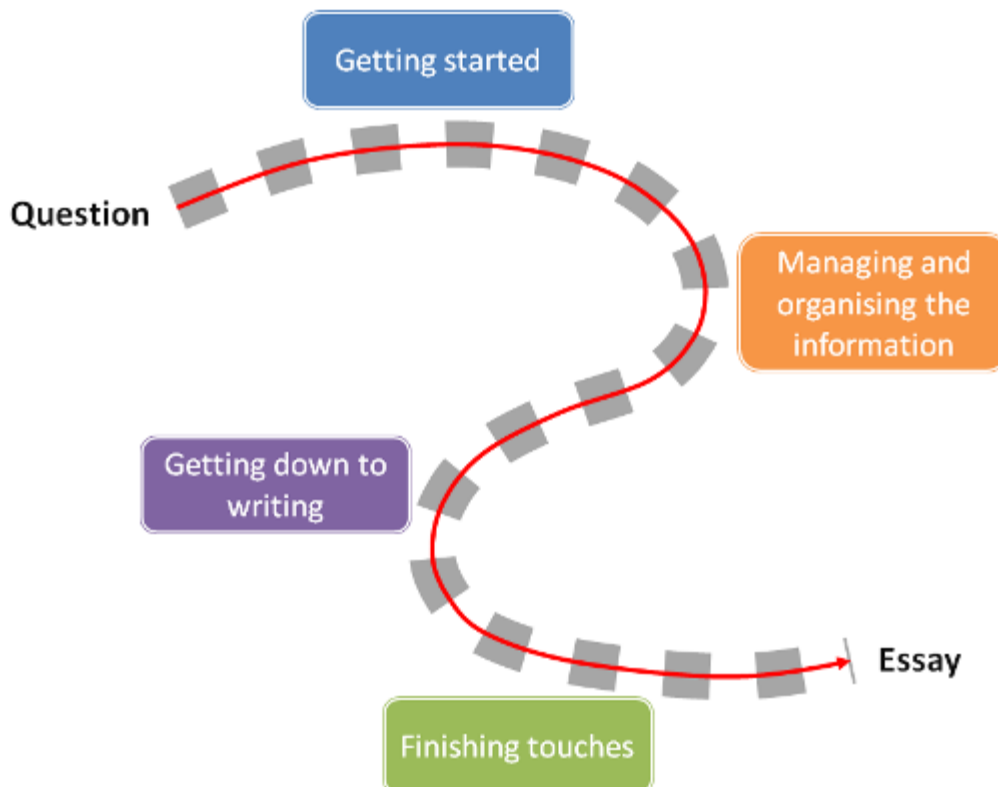
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## 1. Preparing your draft

When you are writing an essay that asks you to discuss a topic or give your opinion on a question, it is important to organize your thoughts and present your arguments clearly and to work out the structure of your essay before you start to write.

**Subject: "All children naturally enjoy learning" Discuss.**

- A)** List your reasons and examples ("for" or "against", why it is "true" or "untrue", explore the different aspects of the question) before you start writing, or enough arguments to show that you have understood the subject. Make sure that for each argument, you have selected a striking example.
- B)** Decide on your outline:
- an **introduction** (saying why the question is interesting, why the problem is important, presenting what the situation is, explaining what the subject is about, introducing your outline...)
  - **two or three paragraphs** in support of the argument/ giving a contrasting or different view (with reasons & examples)
  - a **conclusion** (a summary of your opinion or interpretation of the facts and a possible comparison with a similar problem or related question)
- C)** Select which connectors you will use to introduce the different ideas and arguments in your essay.



## 2. Improving your draft and writing your essay

A) **STYLE:** Use a formal style, do not use contractions or expressions that are too colloquial.

B) **INTRODUCTION:** it should include three elements

- a. An opening: avoid stating the obvious and boring sentences.
- b. The presentation of the essay question: reformulate as precisely as you can.
- c. The presentation of your outline: be subtle when announcing the different parts

**Exercise - Subject: All children naturally enjoy learning. Discuss.**

Outline: Part 1 → Children are by nature curious / Part 2 → The limits of this natural taste: learning can be effortless but requires focus and perseverance

**a) Openings: Which opening is better? Why?**

1. *Today I'm going to discuss the following statement: "All children naturally enjoy learning." But is it really true?*
2. *Give a child a spoon and he/she will naturally start playing with it, make music with it, imagine it is a light saber or simply pretend it is an imaginary friend. All children naturally enjoy playing – can the same be said about learning?*

**b) Presentation of the subject:**

**Find synonyms or expressions that are equivalent.**

naturally → by \_\_\_\_\_

enjoy → I \_\_\_\_\_, a \_\_\_\_\_, I \_\_\_\_\_

learning → acquiring \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

**Use them to formulate a question:**

.....

**c) Presentation of the outline: which is better? Why?**

- 1) *We'll first have a look at the reasons why all children enjoy learning, then in a second part, we'll examine why sometimes, it can also be unpleasant for kids to make the effort to learn.*
- 2) *It is definitely interesting to understand why learning can be, first, a process that children naturally enjoy and then, how this positive experience is sometimes affected by the focus and perseverance required in the learning process.*

C) **BODY:** each part should focus on one argument and be illustrated by one or several clear and precise examples.

**Exercise: find one or two precise examples for each part.**

1) Part 1 → a process that children naturally enjoy by nature:

.....

2) Part 2 → Reasons why & situations in which the efforts and perseverance required to learn affect children's enjoyment in learning:

.....

**CONCLUSION:** Summarize the main ideas + finish with a sentence that leads to a different subject.