

student hub live is the OU's live online interactive platform to support academic community



Margaret Greenhall is a study skills specialist. She has applied the same skills as you'll use in writing essays to write a book. She tutors on science level 1 courses. Her hobbies are rowing and Lego.



Amanda Smith is a tutor of law modules at levels 1 and 2 law modules. She writes literature reviews for research papers – which are just really long essays! Out of the office, she is a ballroom dancer.

Happy Pancake day



Workshop

- This is going to be a structured workshop to help you get thinking about the details of your plan
- We'll look at evaluating your essay plan
- There is a lot of interaction so please be ready to answer polls (questions) or add to chat pod during the session
- You'll get the chance to discuss further and ask additional questions at the end

Session purpose

- **Is for:**
- Covering some ideas on essay planning
- Give some guidance about ways to improve your plan
- Provide a space to share ideas and connect with other students
- **Is not for:**
- Telling you what you HAVE to do
- Providing module specific advice

Inclusivity

- We welcome all students at our workshops. Please do be aware that they can be very busy and some students may struggle with the non scripted nature. Slides are available to download within the live session and from the event page on the studenthublive website to follow along or prepare for what will come up.

Please be aware

- These sessions are large scale
- They are very busy
- There is lots of interaction
- They are not the same as other tutorials
- You can maximise slides on your own screen by clicking the icon



Please

- Do NOT share any personal information in the chat pod during the session
- On the recording names will be anonymised to user number
- However if you type anyone's full name or any other personal information in the chat pod it can be seen by everybody and it would also show up on the recording

Initial poll

What is your main reason for coming along to this session? Please choose the option that fits for you today:

- Study skills for current module(s)
- Study skills for future module (s)
- Connecting with other students
- Gain new ideas
- Responding to suggestion from tutor
- Recommendation from SST/Library
- Curious about what studenthublive is

Mastering Essay Planning



This was our advert...

This essay planning workshop focuses on tweaking your plan to give the best possible argument for the question you are answering. Aimed mainly at students studying level 3 or Postgraduate it will help you to identify the key points and the order of those points to achieve the best outcome. This workshop will look at how to tackle more complex essays, such as comparisons and critical evaluations. The 'Developing your essay planning workshop introduced the basics.

https://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/eventlist_catchup

What do you want to learn?

Using the short answer poll provided please say what you are hoping to learn from today's session

If you are on a mobile device remember you need to tap into the polling option



To come back to these slides after completing a poll click on the share pod slides icon



Hopefully!

- We'll cover ideas to address many of these issues
- Remember your own module assessment guide as well as the studenthome help and the library
- Quick guide to Harvard / cite them right
<https://www.open.ac.uk/library/help-and-support/quick-guide-to-harvard-referencing-cite-them-right>

Poll time

What's different about higher level essays compared to those you did in your foundation or year 1 courses?

Essay planning stages poll

- What are the stages of planning an essay?

Essay planning stages

- Analyse the question
- Plan the information search
- Plan the essay writing
- Plan your time

Essay Stages

- Analyse question – process/topic/criteria
- Plan research
- Research
- Return to question
- Brain dump
- Organise brain dump
- List of points
- Plan – evaluate, prioritise
- Map
- Write – no one else will see it yet
- Edit – does it answer the question
- Check – Flow, proofread

Essay parts

- Introduction 10 -15%
- Paragraphs 75 - 80%
- Conclusion 10%
- References

Using PEEL to write paragraphs

- PEEL
 - Point – make it in first sentence
 - Evidence – support it with facts
 - Explain – why the evidence is supportive and why is it relevant
 - Link – link the paragraph to the next section and/or question gives flow to essay

Brain dump

- Huge amount of data
- Don't know what is relevant
- Or how it connects
- Need to dust the corners of your brain

Rules:

- Sets of 8 ideas
- No censorship
- No organisation
- Wait a day to organise

Post its

Piles of 8 post-its

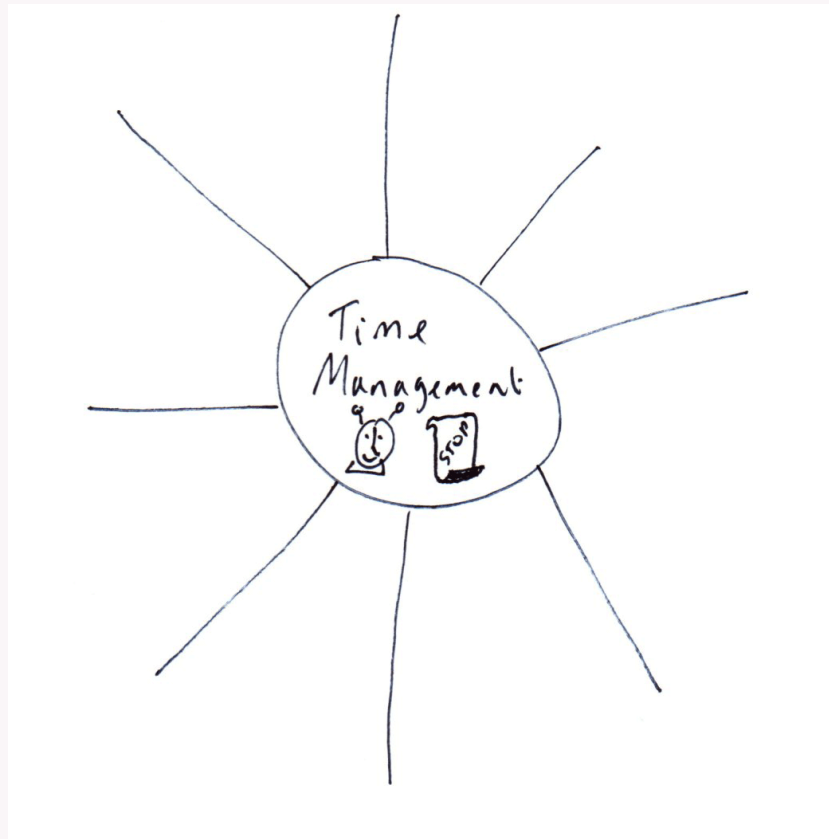
Rules:

Once you start a pile use them all

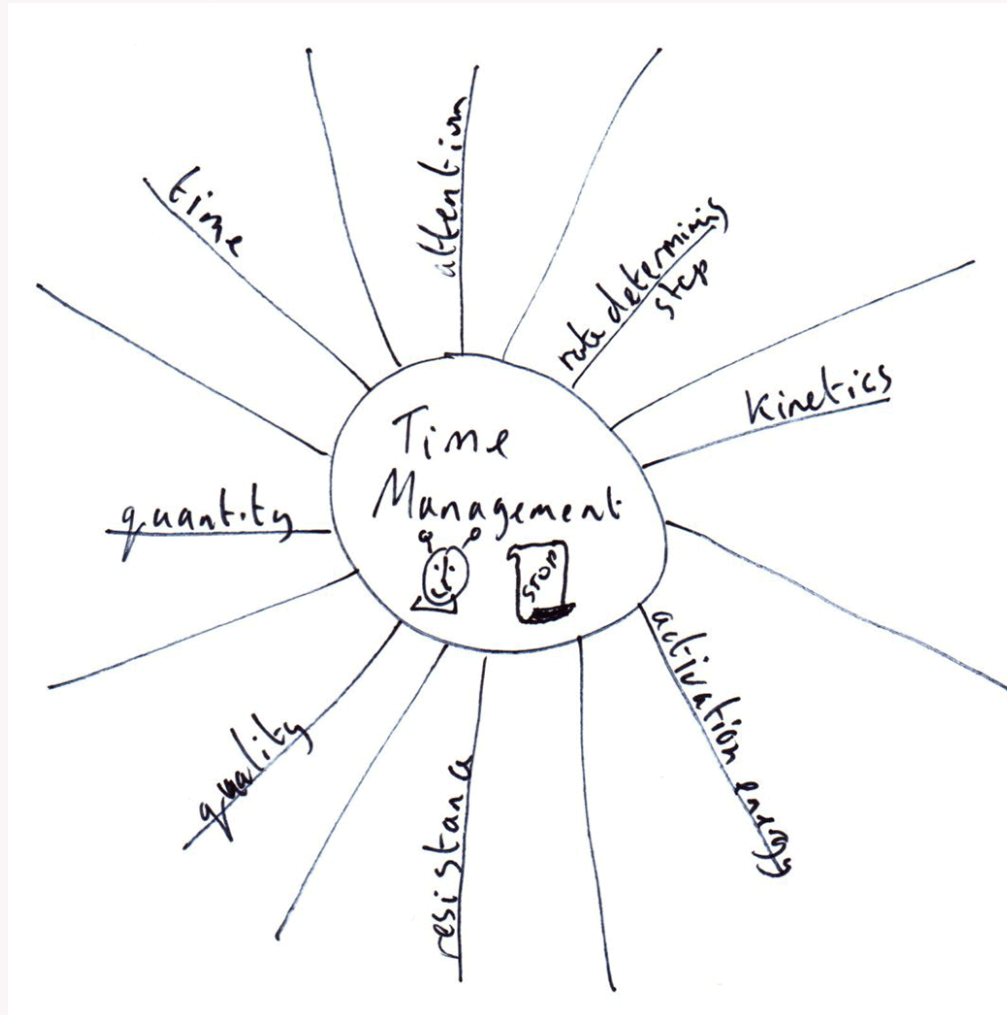
One thought per post-it



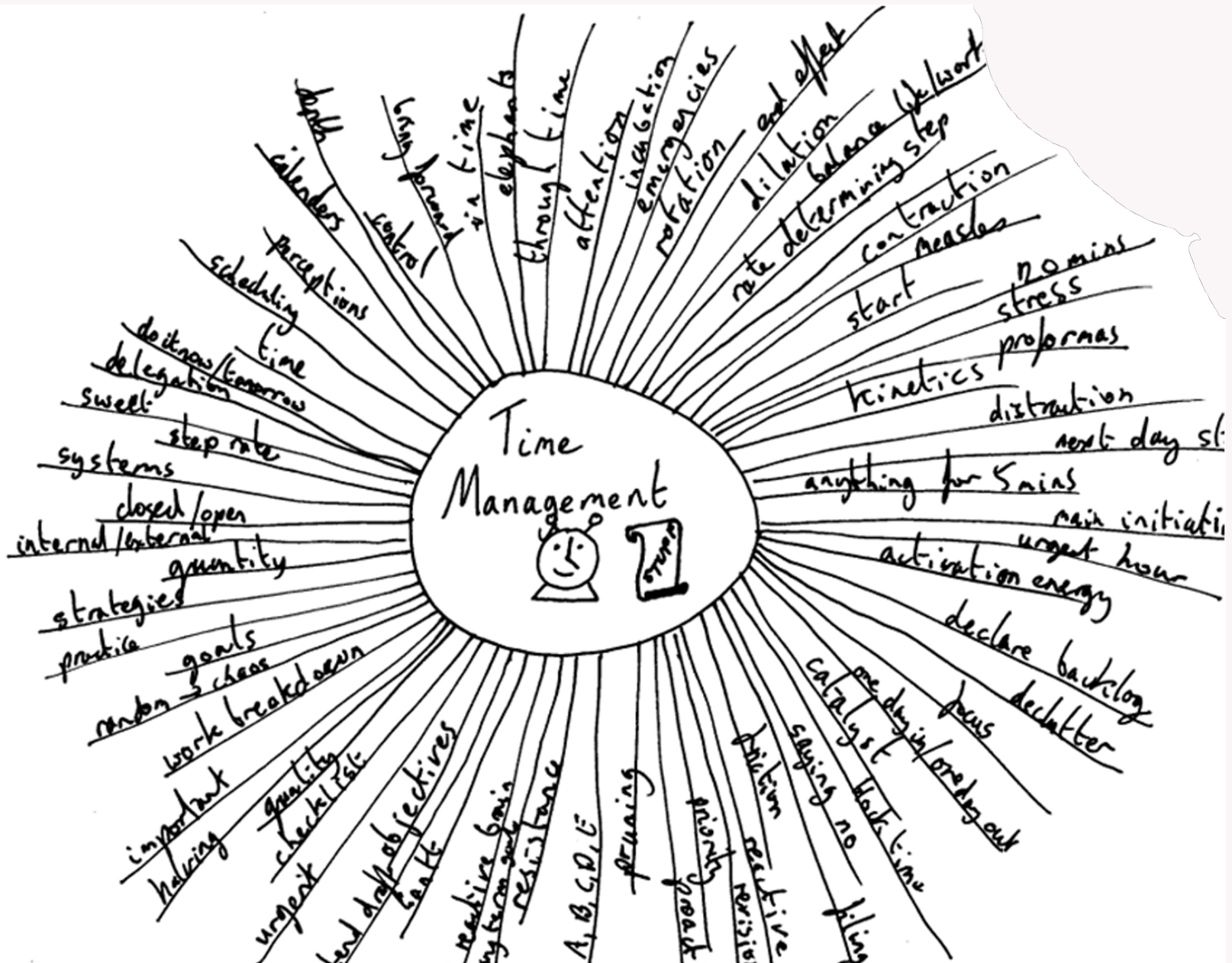
Sun diagram step 1



Sun diagram step 2



Sun diagram end



On computer

On computer

Any way you can think of but rules are :

- Sets of 8
- No censorship
- No organisation

Poll

Do you have any techniques
for brain dumping?

Poll time

Once you've chosen your points how do you evaluate?

Evaluation

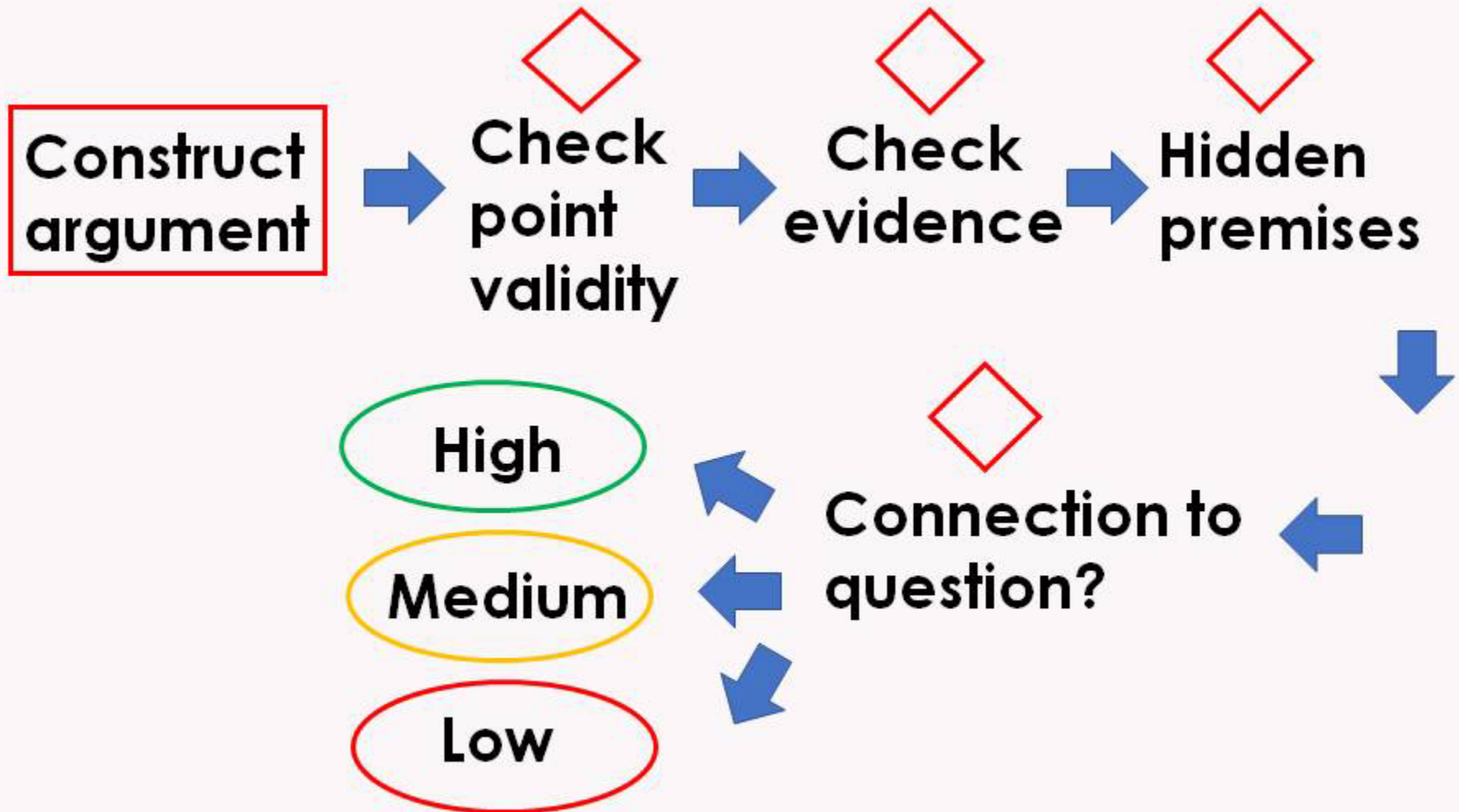


NO

MAYBE

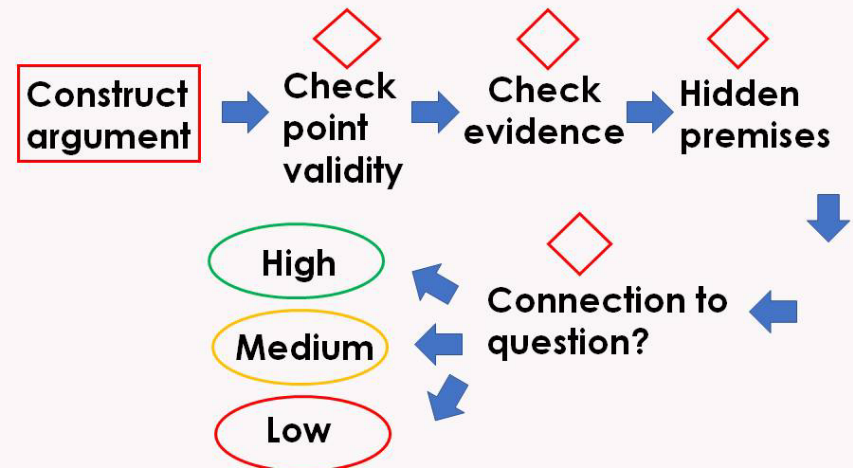
YES

Evaluation



Example (poll)

- Question are cats mammals?
- Evidence 1: Mammals have four legs
- Evidence 2: Cats have four legs
- Point: Cats are mammals



Option 1: strengthen your evidence

- Question are cats mammals?
- Evidence 1: Only mammals both have fur and feed their young with milk
- Evidence 2: Cats have fur and produce milk
- Point: Cats are mammals

Option 2: weaken your point

- Question are cats mammals?
- Evidence 1: Mammals have four legs
- Evidence 2: Cats have four legs
- Point: Cats are probably mammals

More covered in critical thinking sessions

<http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/>

Poll time

Once you've evaluated your points how do you prioritise and order them?

Prioritising – menu shuffle

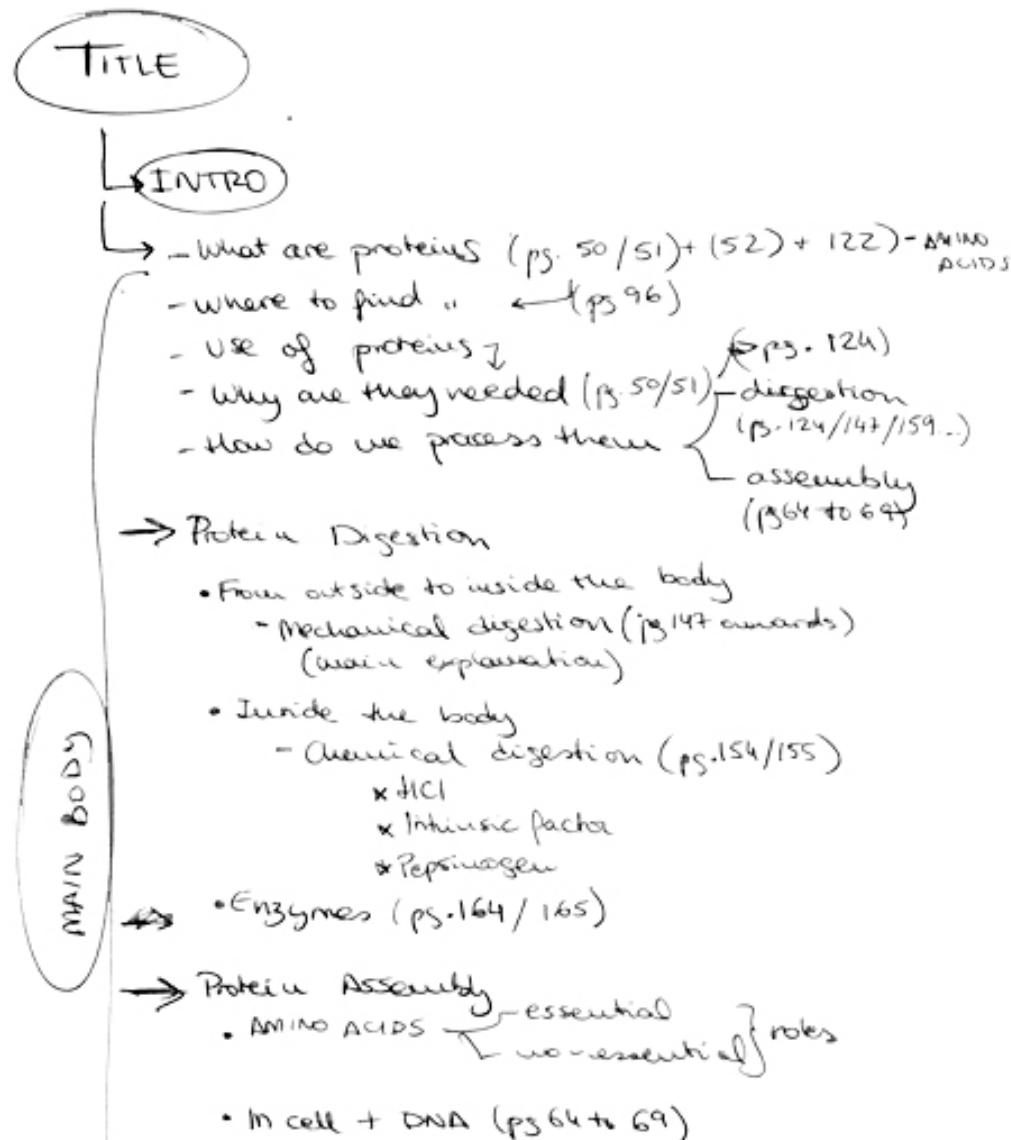
- Menu shuffle – have them in moveable cards/post its or excel file.
- Do a quick first ordering and starting from the bottom of the list is this more or less important than the one above.
- If it's more move it up one.
- Keep going until none of them above it are more important.
- Return to bottom of the list and go again.

Prioritising – criterion multiplier

- Choose 2 or 3 important criteria relating to the question.
- Rank each point with a grade of 1 (not really) to 5 (perfect).
- Then multiply the scores for each point to give a ranking.

	Criterion 1	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Total (x)
Point 1				
Point 2				
Point 3				
Point 4				
Point 5				

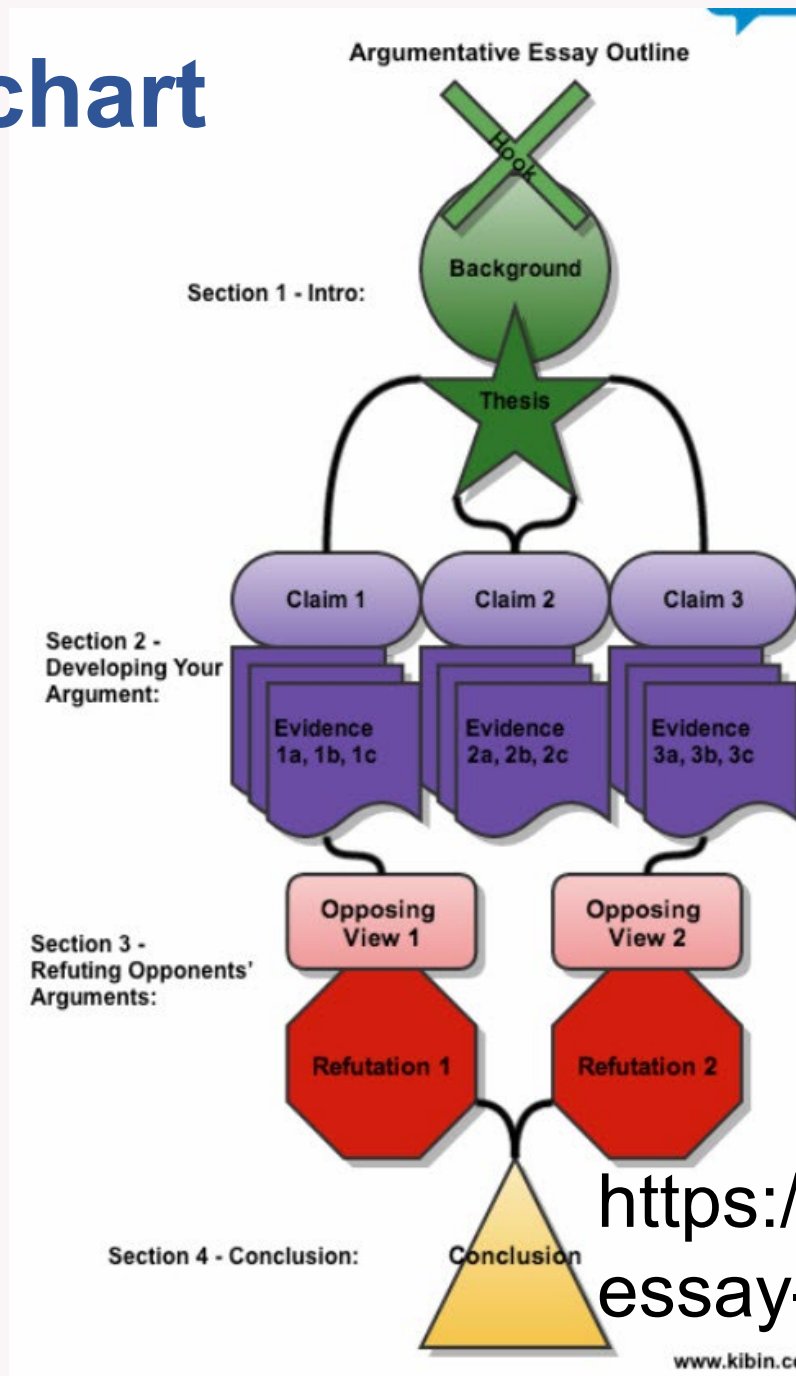
Planning styles recap



Planning styles recap

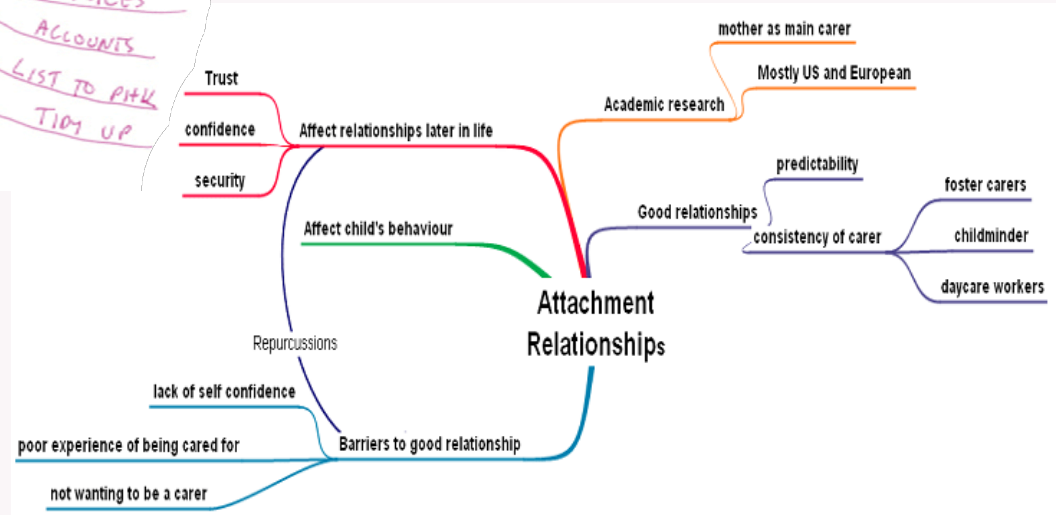
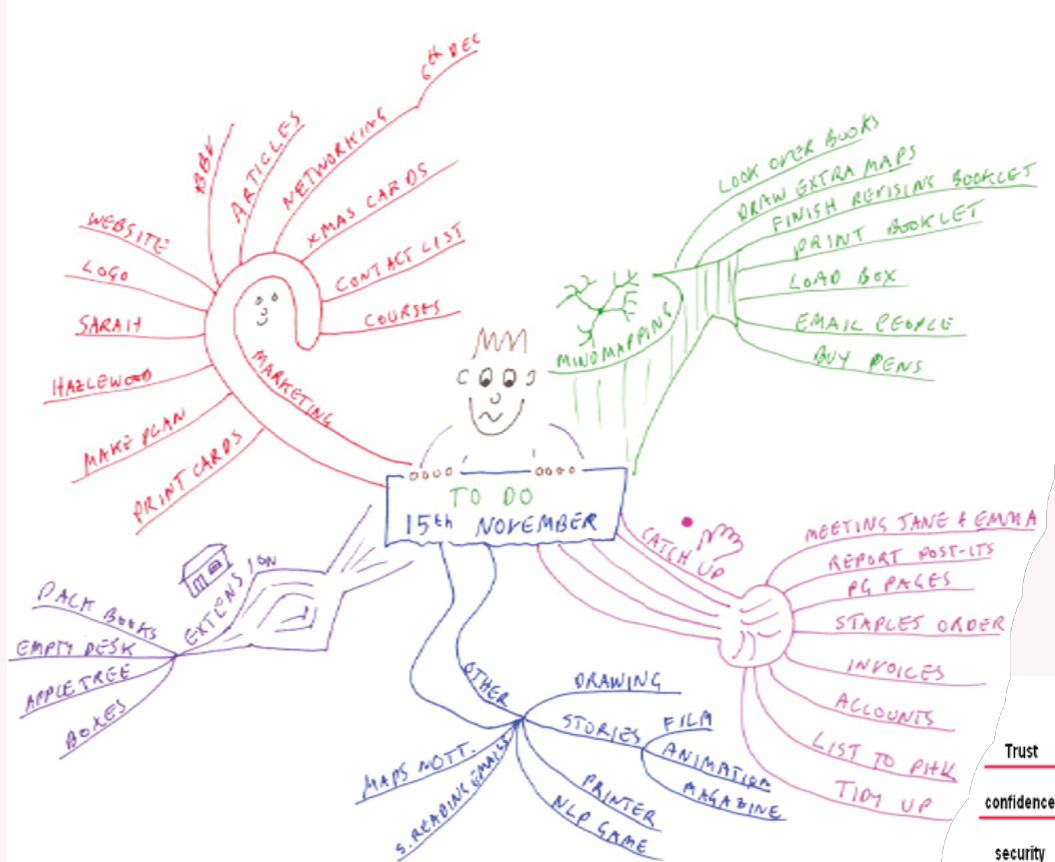
Essay title:			
Due date:		Number of words:	
Essay part	Content	Est. numb words	Source material
Title: Process words Topic words Criteria			
Introduction Hook Context Map Thesis (what you're aiming to prove)	H: C: M: T:	10-15%	In text citation (ITC): End reference (ER): URL:
Paragraph 1 Point (P) Evidence (EV) Explanation (EX) Link (LK)	P: EV: EX: LK:		ITC: ER: URL:
Conclusion: Finale point: Link to Thesis Link to question Main supporting points No new material		10%	
Notes			

Flow chart

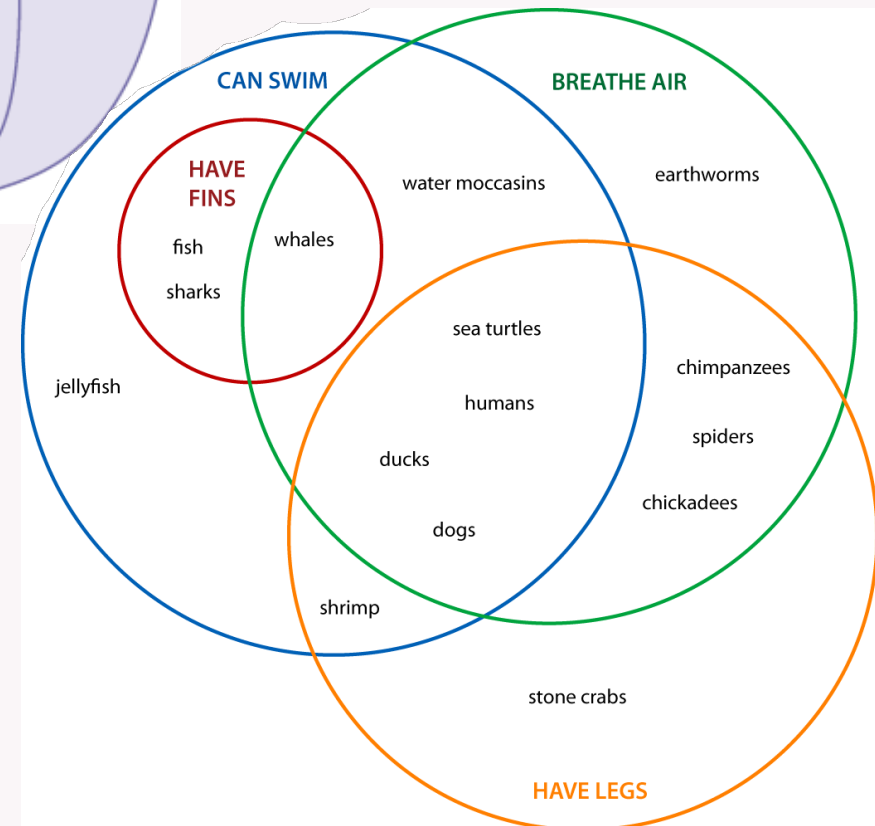
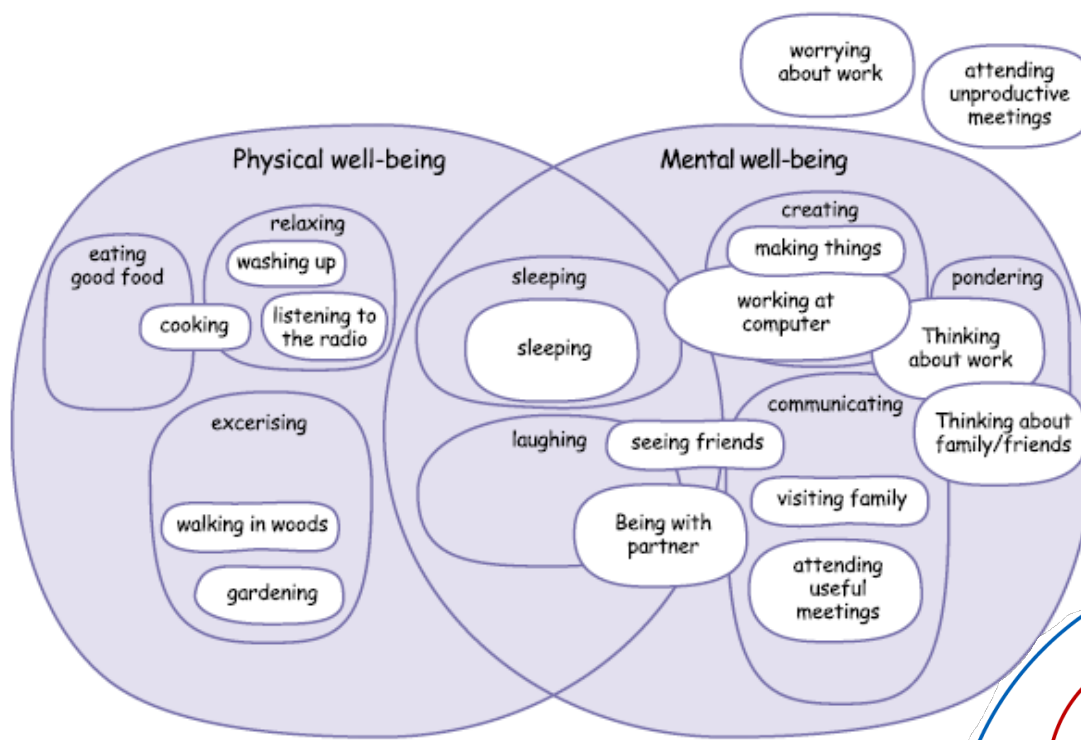


<https://www.kibin.com/essay-writing-blog/>

Mindmaps



Bubble and Venn diagrams



Poll time

What sort of structure do you use to plan your essay?

Handwritten linear

Typed linear

Flow diagram

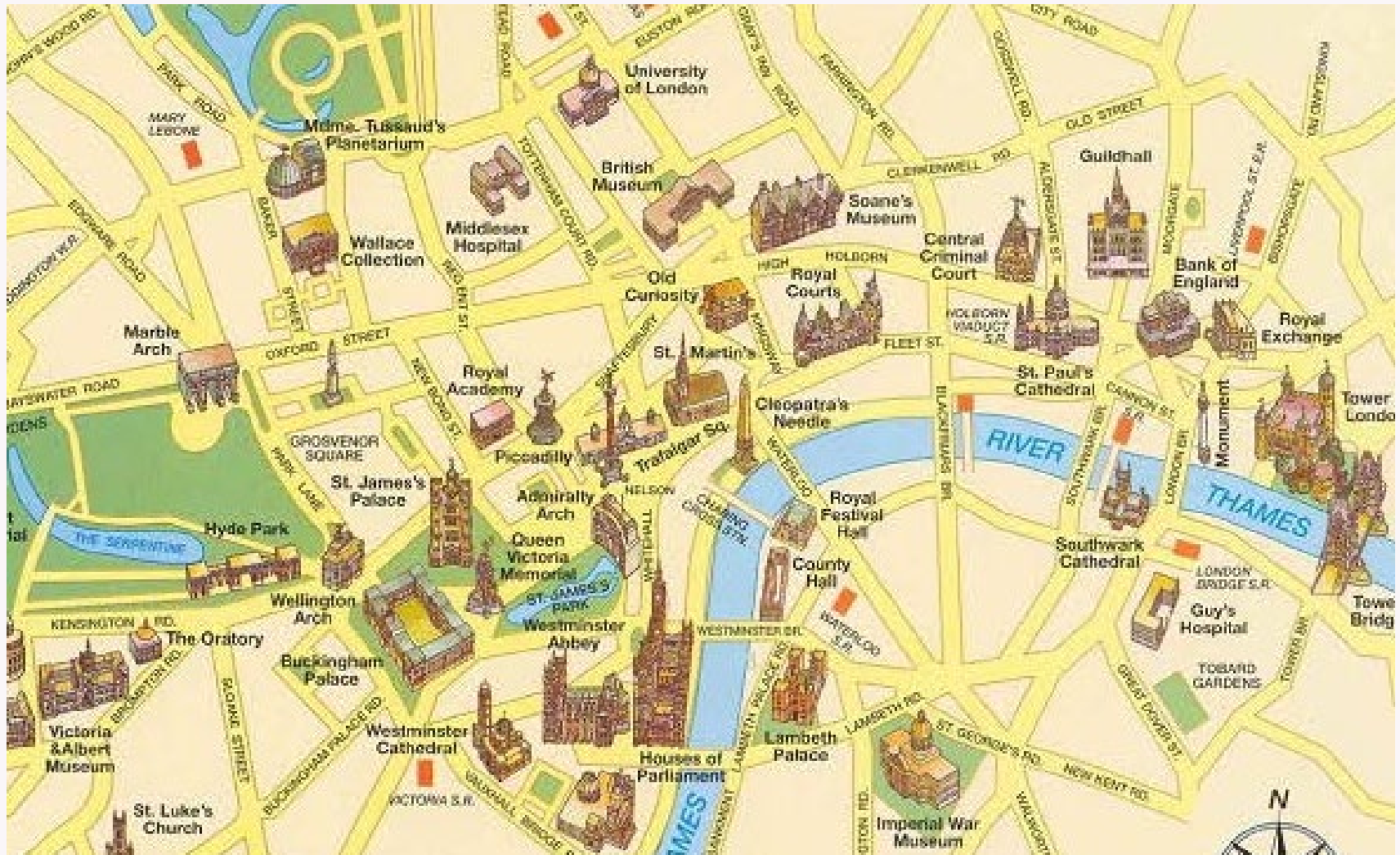
Mindmap

Pod grouping

Venn diagram

Other – put in chat

Mapping your essay



Structure - As written/read

Introduction



Paragraph 1



Paragraph 2

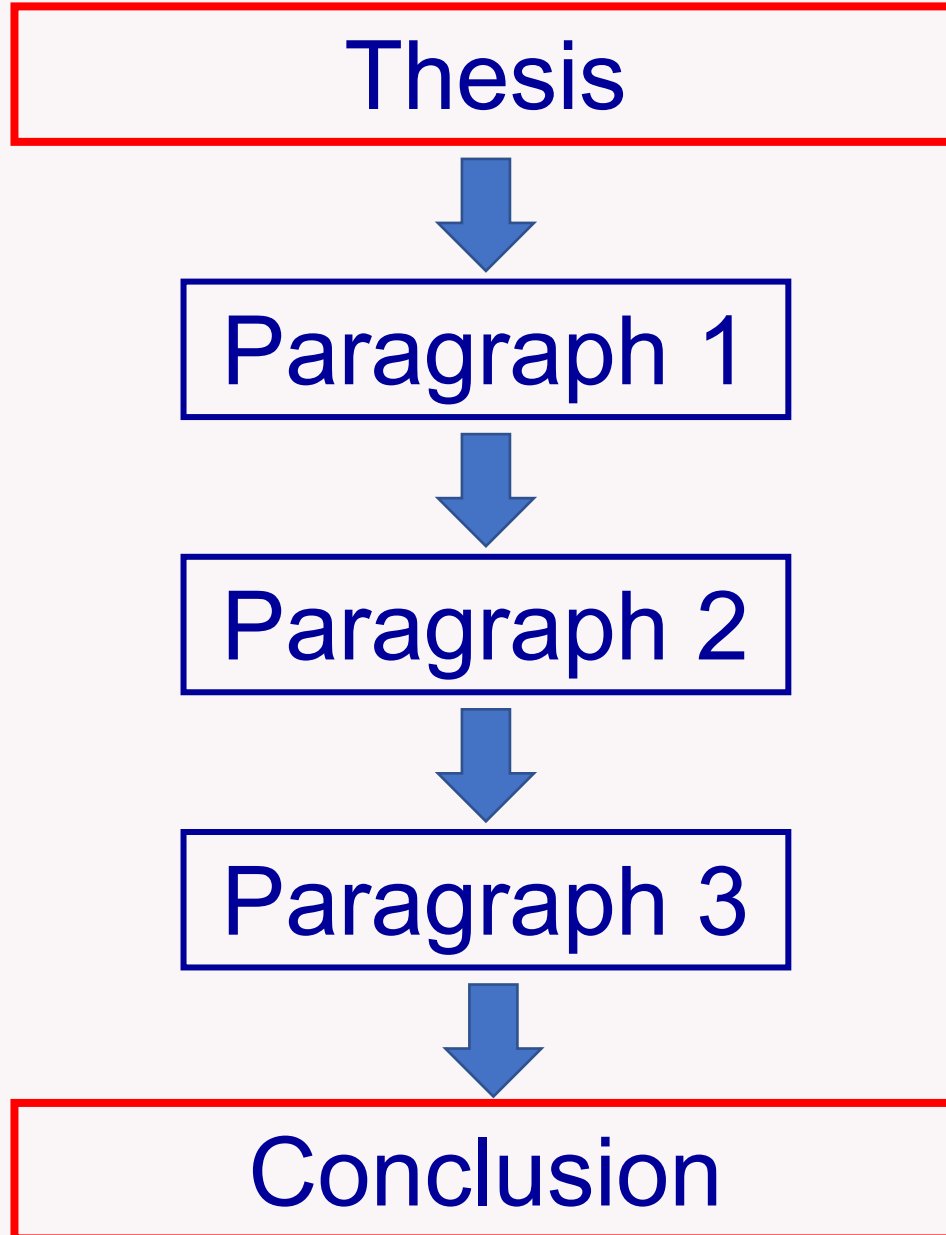


Paragraph 3



Conclusion

Depth Structure



Breadth structure

Thesis



Paragraph 1

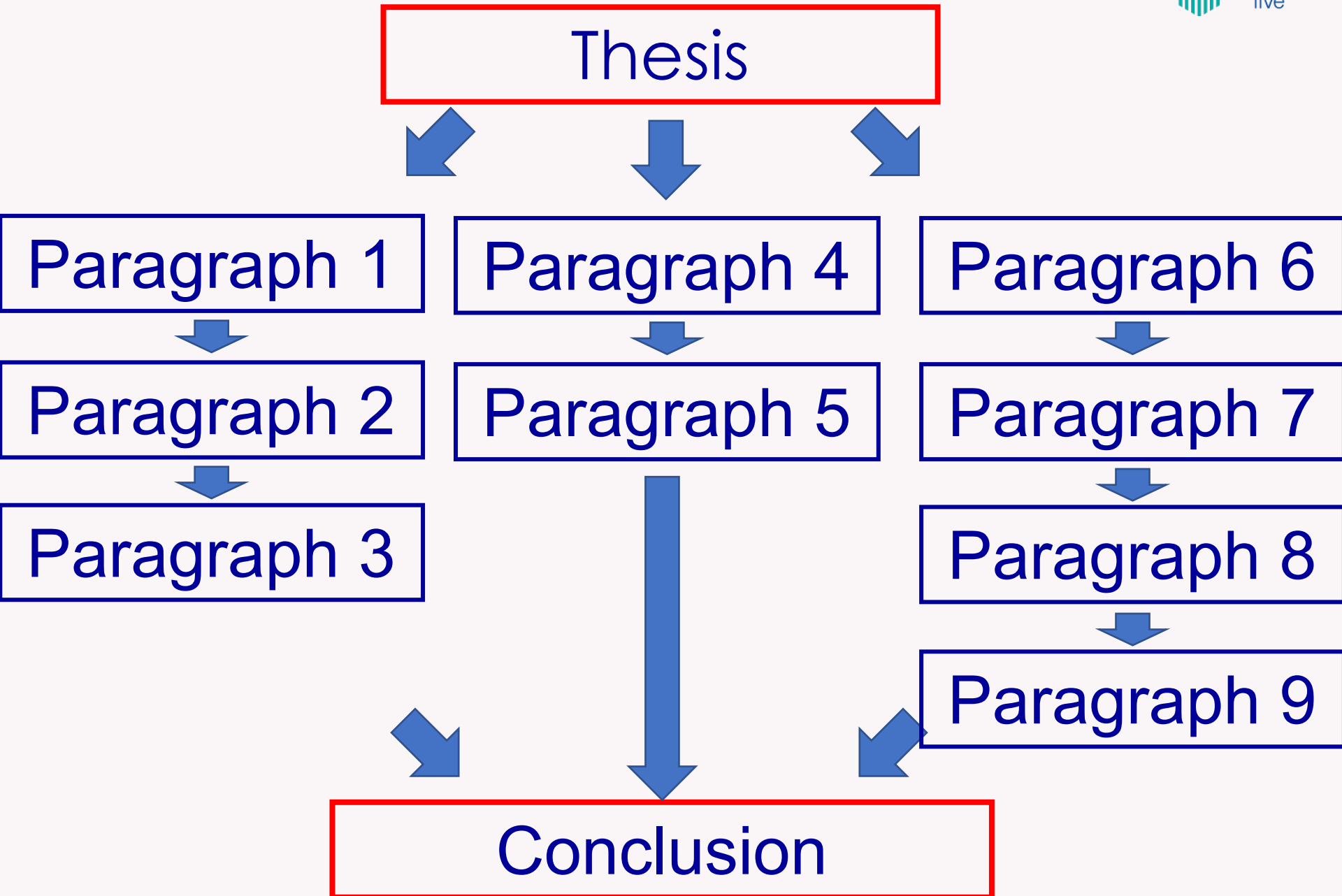
Paragraph 2

Paragraph 3



Conclusion

Branched structure



Memory

When you're reading or watching a film
what parts make it memorable for you?

We remember best

- Starts
- Endings
- Things that are different
- Things that are interesting to the reader
- Things that have a high emotional reaction
- Where our curiosity has been engaged

Compare and contrast

BRICKS

ROWING

INDOORS

FAMILY

STATIONARY

CREATIVE

OUTDOORS

FRIENDS

EXERCISE

HEALTHY

HOBBY
EXPENSIVE
WEEKENDS
TRAVEL



Thesis



Location

Type of
activity

Who with



Travel



Hobby



Conclusion

Critically evaluate the impact of the London 2012 Olympics on the recruitment of recreational rowers.

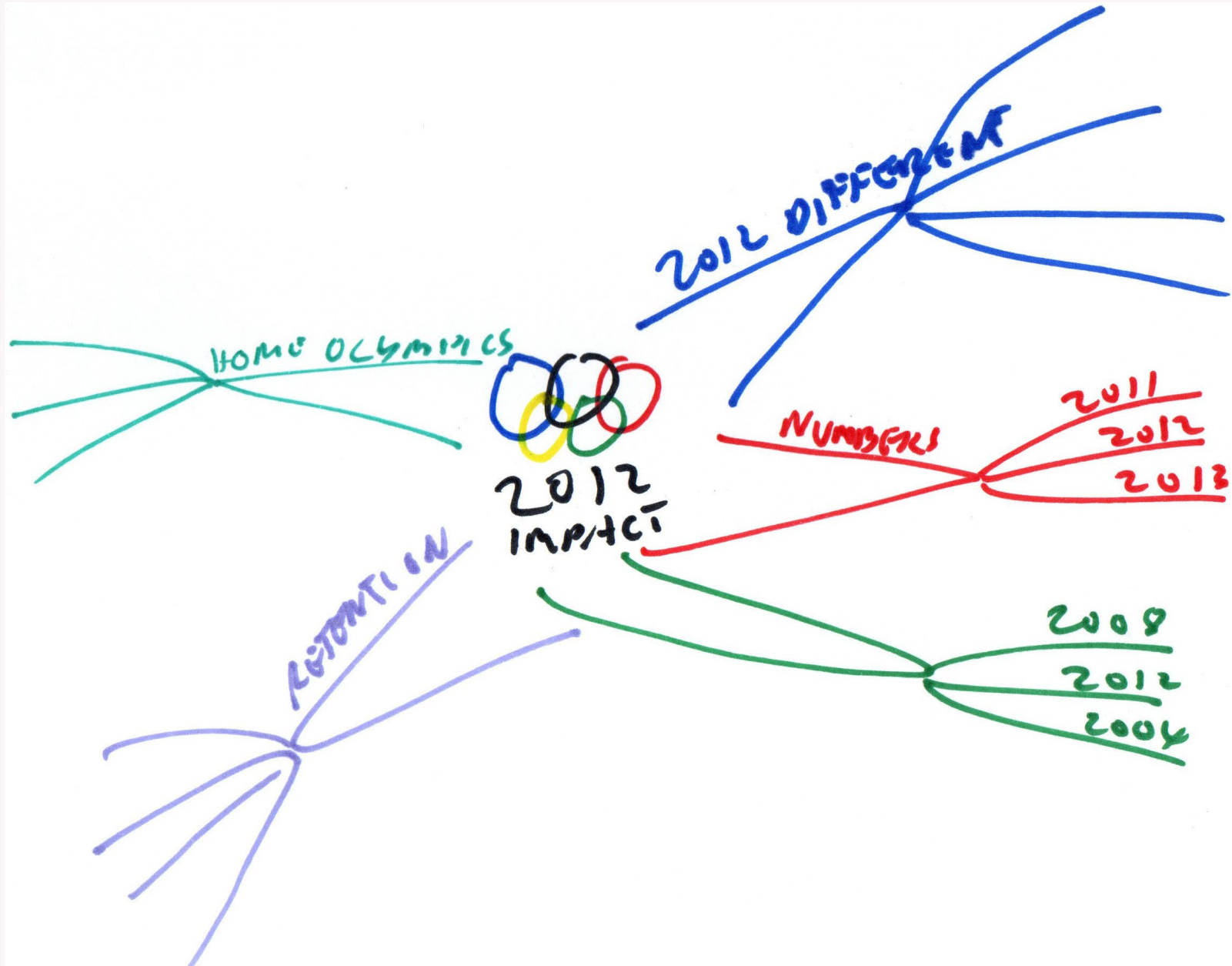
Why was 2012 different from previous Olympics?

What are the recruited numbers in 2011, 2012 and 2013?

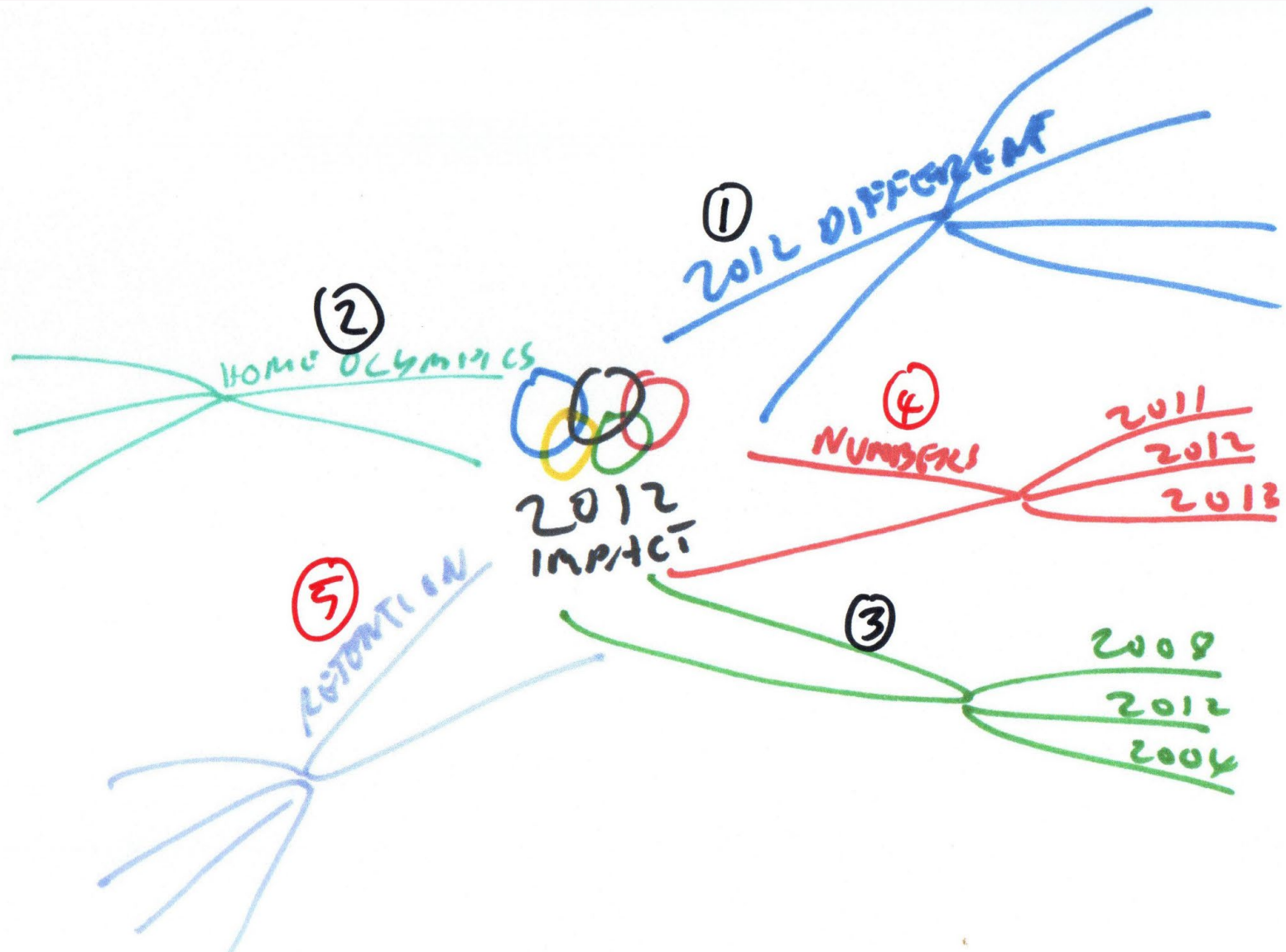
Is there any difference?

Was the location important – home Olympics?

Mindmap



Mindmap



Essay Stages

- Analyse question – process/topic/criteria
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Discussion activity (poll)

- There will be 2 specific questions in chat pods for you to explore some of the elements we have discussed further
- ***I am successful at planning essays when...***
- ***I am going to explore my essay planning further by...***
- You are welcome to add your thoughts and we will then pick up some of the themes and talk through them
- Chat does have names on but the recording will be anonymised so you will appear as 'user number'

Take home message

- Content is not enough
- Evaluation is key
- An excellent essay will have far more time spent planning than writing



Feedback please

Please use the following link to provide feedback to help the studenthublive team to continue to improve what we do

<https://forms.office.com/e/hFJZVfVfxs>

Final polls

What do you feel are the main things you will take away from this session?

- Better understanding of today's topic
- Better understanding of the place of study skills within university study
- Enthusiasm for my studies
- Enthusiasm for my skills development
- Feel part of the university community

How can SHL help you even more in the future?

Please leave your suggestion in the free text poll.

We are using the new Adobe Connect version with a different audio set up before you enter the room— was this:

- Very good
- Good
- Neither good nor bad
- Bad
- Very bad

More feedback please send to studenthub@open.ac.uk

Upcoming sessions

23rd Feb 11am Support for Student Carers

28th Feb 7pm Introduction to Essay Writing

7th Mar 7pm Developing Essay Writing

14th Mar 7pm Mastering Essay Writing

21st March Beginners Critical Thinking

22nd March 11am Studying with neurodiversity

Details, booking information and subscribe
for events at <http://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/>

Past student hub live online study skills sessions

https://studenthublive.open.ac.uk/eventlist_catchup

Send us feedback at studenthub@open.ac.uk