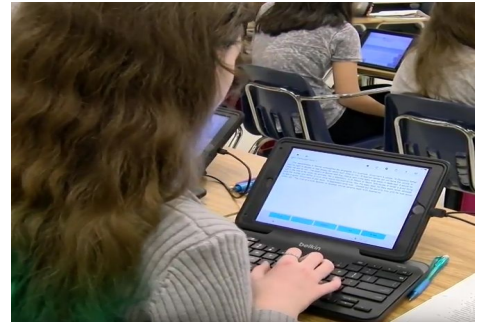


# Using the CO:Writer Universal App with the TREE Strategy

## Technology



## Strategy



## Text Analysis Supported by CO:Writer Universal and the TREE Writing Strategy

TREE is a strategy used frequently with the Self Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) model by Steve Graham and Karen Harris.

The TREE strategy can be rehearsed and practiced before asking students to write with it. After introducing what the acronym TREE stands for, students can work in whole or small groups, pairs, or individually to use CO:Writer Universal (CWU) app to analyze text with the TREE strategy components: Topic, Reasons, Ending, Examine.

With the TREE prompts shown in CO:Writer Universal, students use the text-to-speech feature to analyze their writing by identifying the parts of the TREE strategy. The last E of the strategy stands for Examine and asks students to determine if they have all the parts in the essay:

By tapping the speak button, students hear their writing beginning where the cursor is placed. Listen for the **topic sentence** and underline it. Select and highlight the topic sentence by moving the blue handles, then tap on the underlined A at the top of the screen to see the underline option.

Next, use the speak button to listen and look for **transition words** such as “one”, “another”, “final”. The transition word hints that another **reason** is coming. Students number their reasons.

Finally, students find the ending that wraps up the essay. Tap the speak button and listen to the text to find the **ending sentence**. Select the sentence and underline it. The A underlined at the top of the screen offers text options in CWU and allows students to underline it.

Once students go into CO:Writer Universal app using text-to-speech and the TREE strategy for a practice essay, then they can use it to review and revise their own work.

# Strategies for Effective Writing: POW Strategy



## Planning for Writing with the POW Strategy

**STEP 1. PICK IDEAS:** Brainstorm and plan what to write about.

**STEP 2. ORGANIZE:** Organize your notes by story part. Choose several possible ideas for each part.

**STEP 3. WRITE:** Write and say more about the topic.

### The POW Planning Strategy

This general strategy is a good place to start because it is applicable to different genres and can be utilized in conjunction with other strategies as well (i.e., POW + TREE).

Step 1. Activate background knowledge by discussing components of a good story. Share examples of good stories and discuss.

Step 2. Introduce the mnemonic for POW and model the strategy. Use a “think aloud” to explain how POW can be used. Provide opportunities for students to discuss the strategy.

Step 3. Select a topic. Practice POW. Share a few examples of student writing then review the strategy. Students independently write from a prompt using POW.

# Strategies for Effective Writing: POW + TREE



## Persuasive Writing with the POW + TREE Strategy

### STEP 1. POW

**Pick** my idea. Decide what to write about.

**Organize** my notes. Brainstorm possible ideas.

**Write** and say more

+

### STEP 2. TREE

**Topic** sentence. Tell what you believe.

**Reasons** why you believe this. State three or more reasons.

**Explain** reasons. Say more about each reason.

**Ending.** Wrap it up. Examine the paper to see if all parts are included.

The POW + TREE Strategy uses the POW and TREE mnemonics to plan and organize persuasive writing.

Step 1. Discuss argument writing and the components of strong persuasive essays.

Step 2. Review the POW Strategy. Review the TREE Strategy.

Step 3. Provide a sample persuasive essay. Refer to the last E in TREE = **Ending**, examine the paper to see if all parts are included. Together, examine the essay to determine if all the required parts of the essay are present. Discuss.

Step 4. Provide a sample prompt.

- Refer to the P in POW = **Pick** my idea. Students will brainstorm ideas.
- Refer to the O in POW = **Organize** notes.
- Refer to the TREE Strategy.
- Refer to the W in POW = **Write** and say more.
- Students will practice writing a persuasive essay using POW + **TREE**. **Discuss.**

Step 5. Students independently write a persuasive essay from a given prompt using POW + TREE.

# ARGUMENT Writing

## TREE Strategy

**STEP 1. Topic sentence.** Write a topic sentence expressing your opinion. Tell what you believe.

**STEP 2. Reasons.** Brainstorm at least three reasons to support the topic sentence. Think about *who* will be reading the paper (your audience) and the *purpose* (why) of writing this paper.

**STEP 3. Examples.** Explain the reasons you listed. Ask:

(1) Why do you believe this?

(2) Will the reader(s) believe this?

**STEP 4. Ending.** Wrap it up. Conclude with a statement to summarize the topic sentence.



TREE provides a three-step general framework for planning and writing a basic opinion or persuasive essay. TREE works well in conjunction with POW.

**STEP 1.** Identify the purpose and audience for the topic. Develop background knowledge on the topic/prompt.

**STEP 2.** Introduce the mnemonic for TREE and model the strategy.

- Brainstorm notes for each part of the essay.
- Examine essays and look for the TREE components in each.
- Practice using the TREE strategy with a sample prompt.

**STEP 3.** Using TREE, students independently write essays from a prompt given.

# Co:Writer Universal Quick Start

## What is Co:Writer Universal?

Co:Writer Universal is a set of writing tools that aides with phonetic spelling, grammar, and topic-related vocabulary. The tools can be used with many different computing devices in a consistent and reliable way.

## Why do I need to login to use Co:Writer Universal?

Co:Writer Universal will automatically save display settings and topic vocabulary anywhere you use Co:Writer to write. In addition, if you are writing within an iOS device or Google Chrome Applications, Co:Writer will save your document automatically.

## Options and Settings:

Co:Writer allows you adjust speech and display options. It will also allow you to supply topic specific vocabulary as well as personal words like family and pet names.

## Speech Options:

Co:Writer has tools available to adjust voice, volume, pitch and rate for text to speech. These settings are device specific.

## Word Prediction Options:

You can now adjust font, background and foreground colors, size and number of guesses for prediction box. Co:Writer also allows you to adjust the font size, background and foreground colors for writing environments within the iOS and Google Apps.



## Co:Writer writing environment::

When writing with Co:Writer within the Chrome or iOS applications, your writings will be saved automatically, and can be accessed from any Co:Writer enabled device with an internet connection.

## Home Page:



Click on trash to select writings to be removed.



Click on export to export to places like Dropbox or Google Drive.

## New

Click on the word “New” to create a new writing. Otherwise, click on a writing you have already started to continue to write.

## Writing Page:



Home is used to return to the home page.



Speak selected text related to cursor placement.



Specify Vocabulary Dictionaries and Topics.



Insert pictures with the camera, from your computer, or from personal online picture sites.



Adjust prediction and speech settings.



Export a selected document to places like Dropbox and Google. Use Export to Print or Copy too.



Turn on/off prediction window.

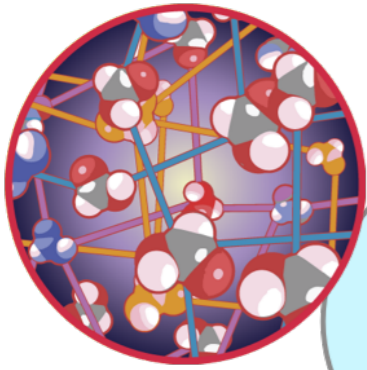


Document formatting options.



Create a new document with the same dictionary settings.

# POW



## Pick My Idea

### Pick My Idea

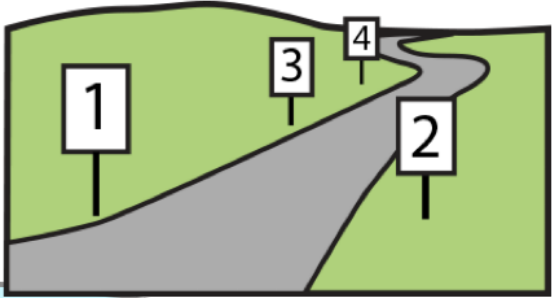
Your teacher may give you some choices for your writing idea. Let your mind be open and free to ideas to note once you decide your topic.

## Organize My Notes

### Organize My Notes

Now I can write down essay or story part ideas in this organizer as I think of them. I can move my ideas around. Consider who, what, and where. Consider pros and cons. Talk aloud and fill in notes. Can I add more? Can I add million-dollar words. I don't have to worry about full sentences right now. Brain dump time!

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	~~~~~
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	~~~~~
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	~~~~~
<input type="checkbox"/>	~~~~~
<input type="checkbox"/>	~~~~~



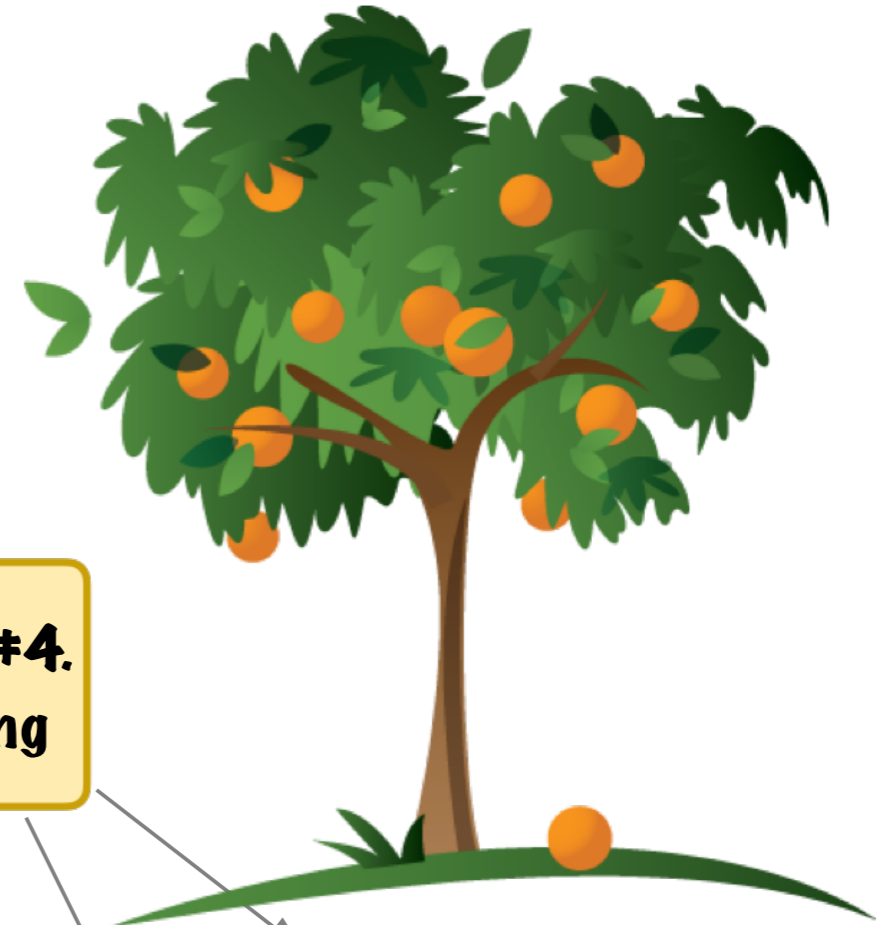
## Write and Say More

### Write and Say More

I can add more here. I can write full sentences in CO:Writer but come back to my map and add missing parts as I revise. Ask yourself, "Does my writing make sense?" "Do all ideas relate to the topic?" "Do ideas need more explanation, examples, or details?"



# TREE Strategy



**Step #1.**  
**Topic sentence.**  
**Tell your opinion.**

**Step #2.**  
**Reasons**

**Step #3.**  
**Examples. Why do you believe this?**

**Step #4.**  
**Ending**

Who is your audience?

Reason 1

Why are you writing this?

Reason 2

Reason 3

Explain Reason 1

Explain Reason 2

Explain Reason 3

Wrap it up! Use a statement that summarizes the topic sentence.

Did you actually persuade?

Conclude in a powerful way.



## TREE Graphic Organizer

<b>T</b>	<b>Topic sentence.</b> Write a topic sentence expressing your opinion. Tell what you believe.
<b>R</b> <b>E</b>	<b>Reasons.</b> Brainstorm at least 3 reasons to support the topic sentence. Think about who will be reading the paper (your audience) and the purpose (why) of writing this paper. Explain each reason further. <b>1. Reason:</b>  <b>Explanation:</b>
	<b>2. Reason:</b>  <b>Explanation:</b>
	<b>3. Reason:</b>  <b>Explanation:</b>
<b>E</b>	<b>Ending.</b> Wrap it up. Conclude with a statement to summarize the topic sentence.