

Teacher Perspective:

Pairing Concept Mapping with the TREE Strategy

Teachers pair the interactive graphic organizer tool, Inspiration Maps, with the research-based instructional writing strategy, TREE. Student writers may have a hard time with staying on topic, not having enough ideas, or repeating ideas. Random thoughts can splinter the ideas of a paper. Teaching with Inspiration Maps and TREE demonstrates explicit writing skills such as brainstorming, ideation, and outlining to support instruction and student productivity in writing.

Inspiration Maps

- Student become engaged in their writing, staying on topic
- Brainstorm ideas into a template or create their own map
- See their ideas and the big picture of their writing piece
- Move ideas around; add or delete thoughts
- Save and share their work

Writing a paragraph with the TREE strategy offers common language to discuss writing. TREE structure gives an outline for writing.

TREE Strategy

- Topic Sentence
- Reasons
- Explanations
- Ending

TREE allows explicit instruction for teachers to use. It is uncomplicated for students. TREE can be used across content areas. Good writers use tools and strategies to communicate their ideas. From organization within IM to paragraph writing with TREE, this technology and strategy pairing can be applied in any writing situation and supports all student writers.

Strategies for Effective Writing: TREE Strategy



Persuasive Writing with the 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 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.

Step 3. Examine essays and look for the TREE components in each. Students practice using the TREE strategy with a sample prompt.

Step 4. Using TREE, students independently write essays from a prompt given.

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.

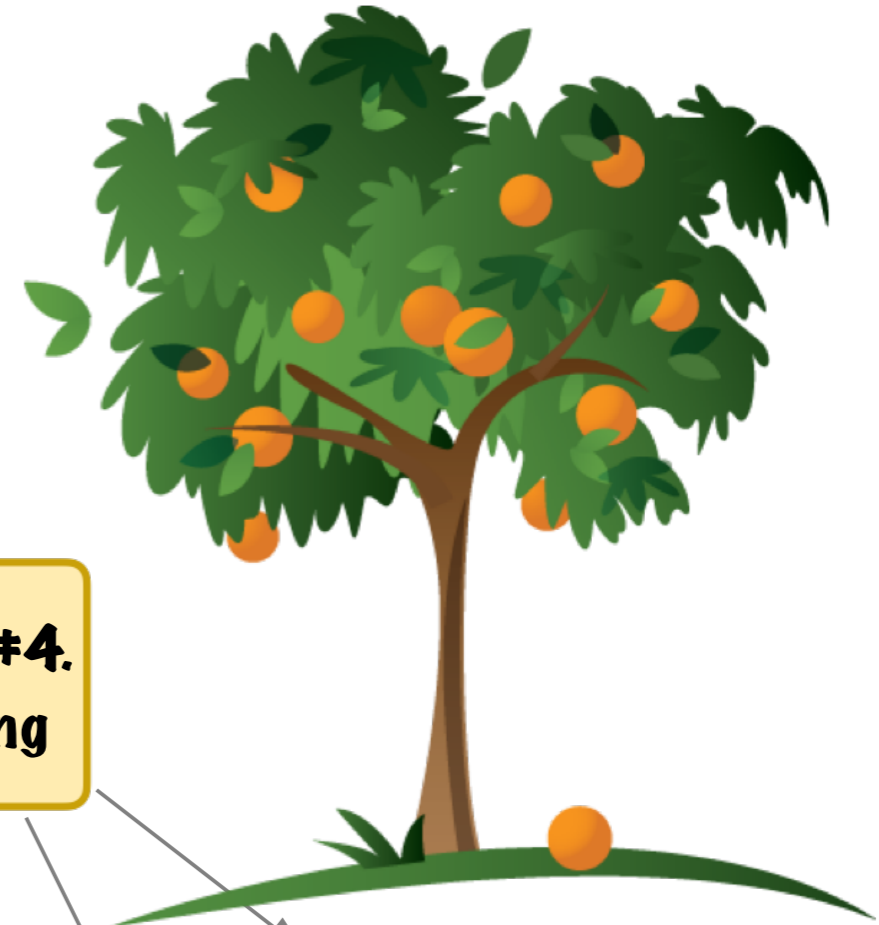
STEP 2. Introduce the mnemonic for TREE and model the strategy.

- 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.



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

T	Topic sentence. Write a topic sentence expressing your opinion. Tell what you believe.
R E	Reasons. 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. 1. <u>Reason:</u> Explanation:
	2. <u>Reason:</u> Explanation:
	3. <u>Reason:</u> Explanation:
E	Ending. Wrap it up. Conclude with a statement to summarize the topic sentence.