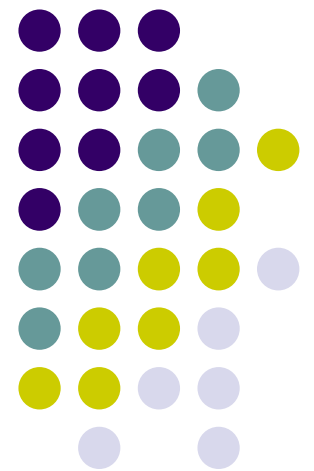
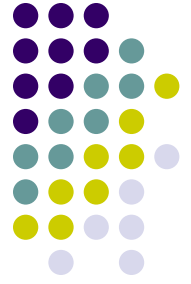


Pre-writing Strategies and Thesis Statements

Center for Teaching and Learning



Determine your topic...



MUSIC

Past Experiences

Future Goals

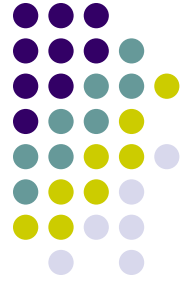
Seasons

Family

Travel

Assigned Topic

Journals



Writing from a prompt

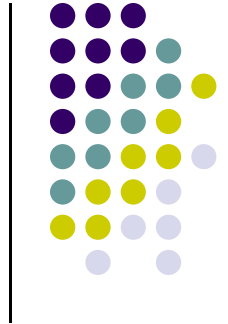
Growth in analyzing your topic

Become a more proficient writer through practice

Dialogue Journals

Response Journals

Brainstorming



Words, words, words...

Words, words, words...



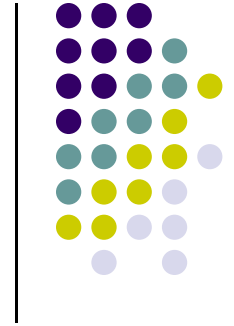
Words, words, words...

Words, words, words...

Words, words, words...



Listing



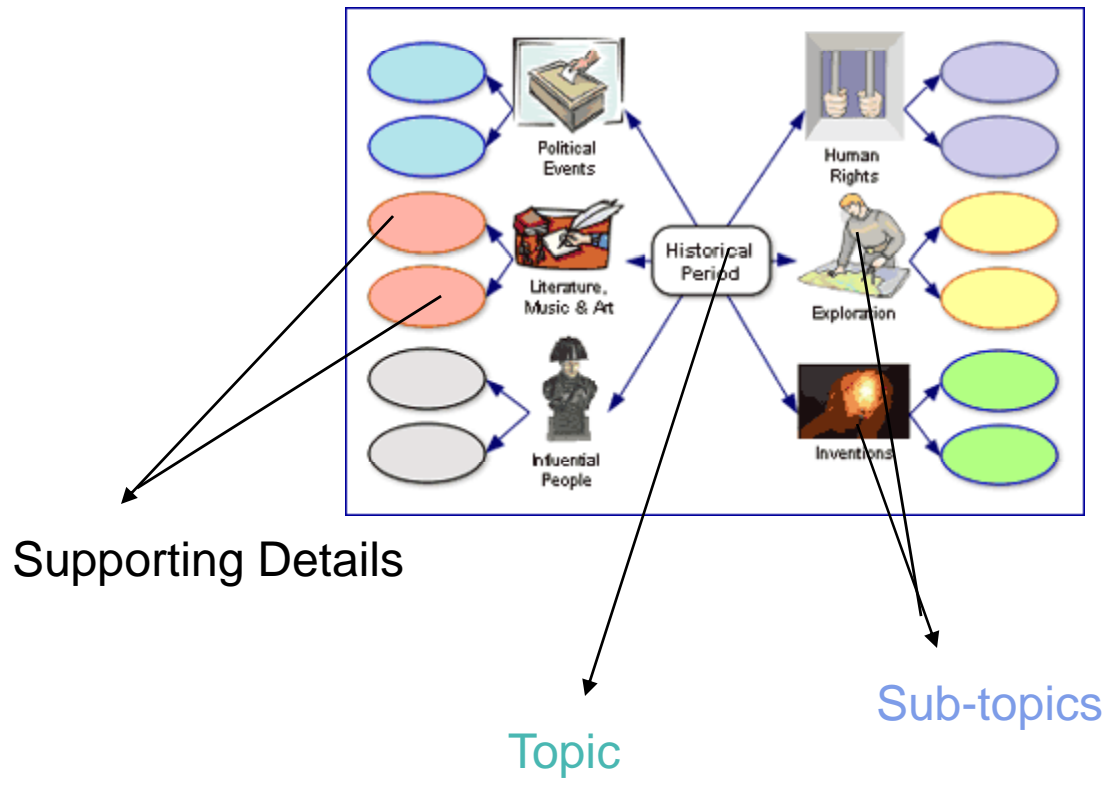
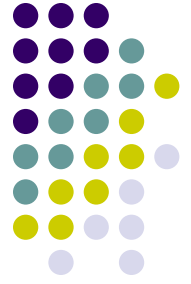
Brainstorming and listing go hand in hand.

Subtopics can start a new list.

Helps generate subtopics.



Webbing

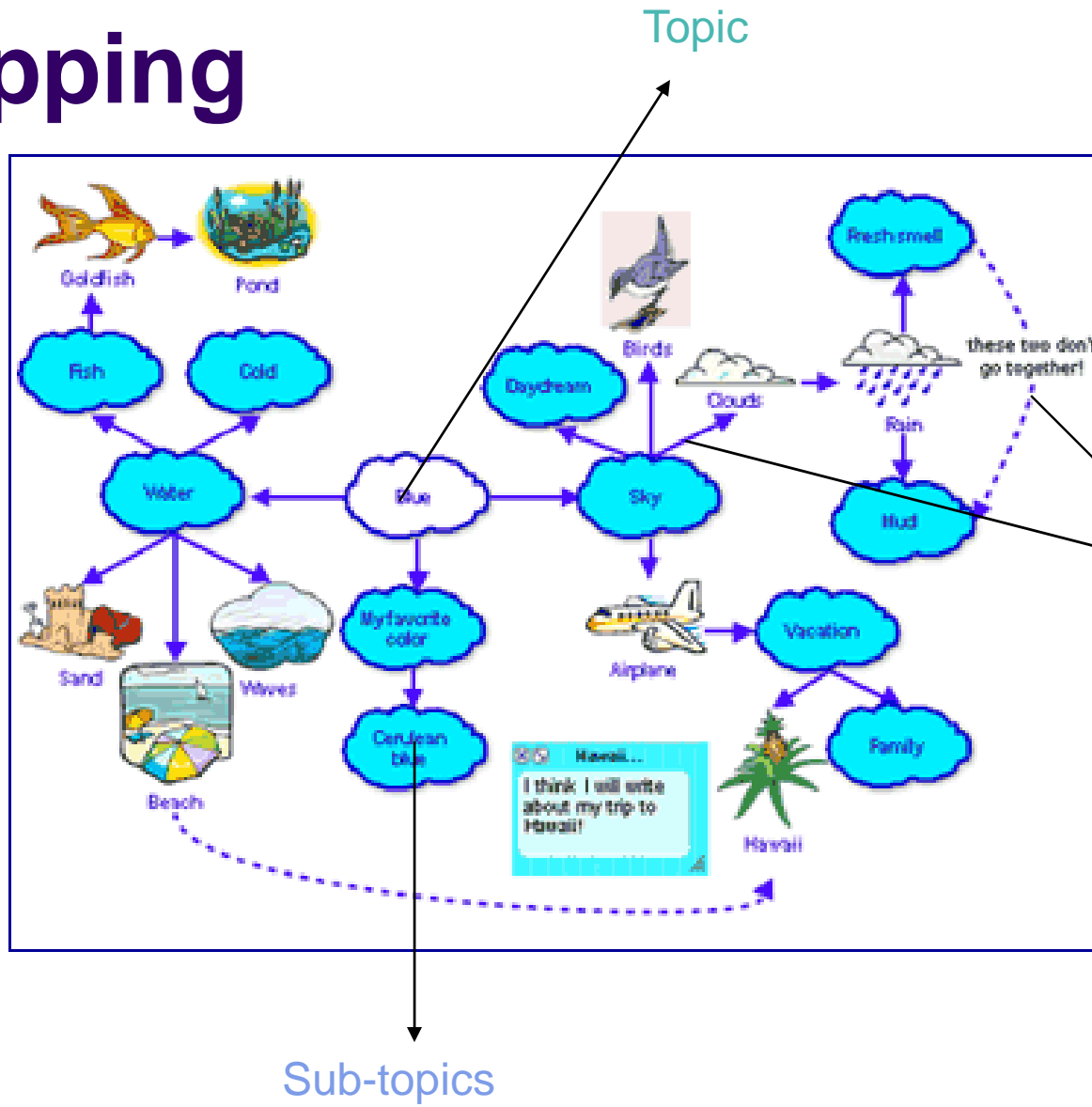


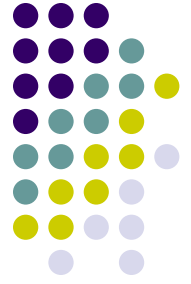
Supporting Details

Topic

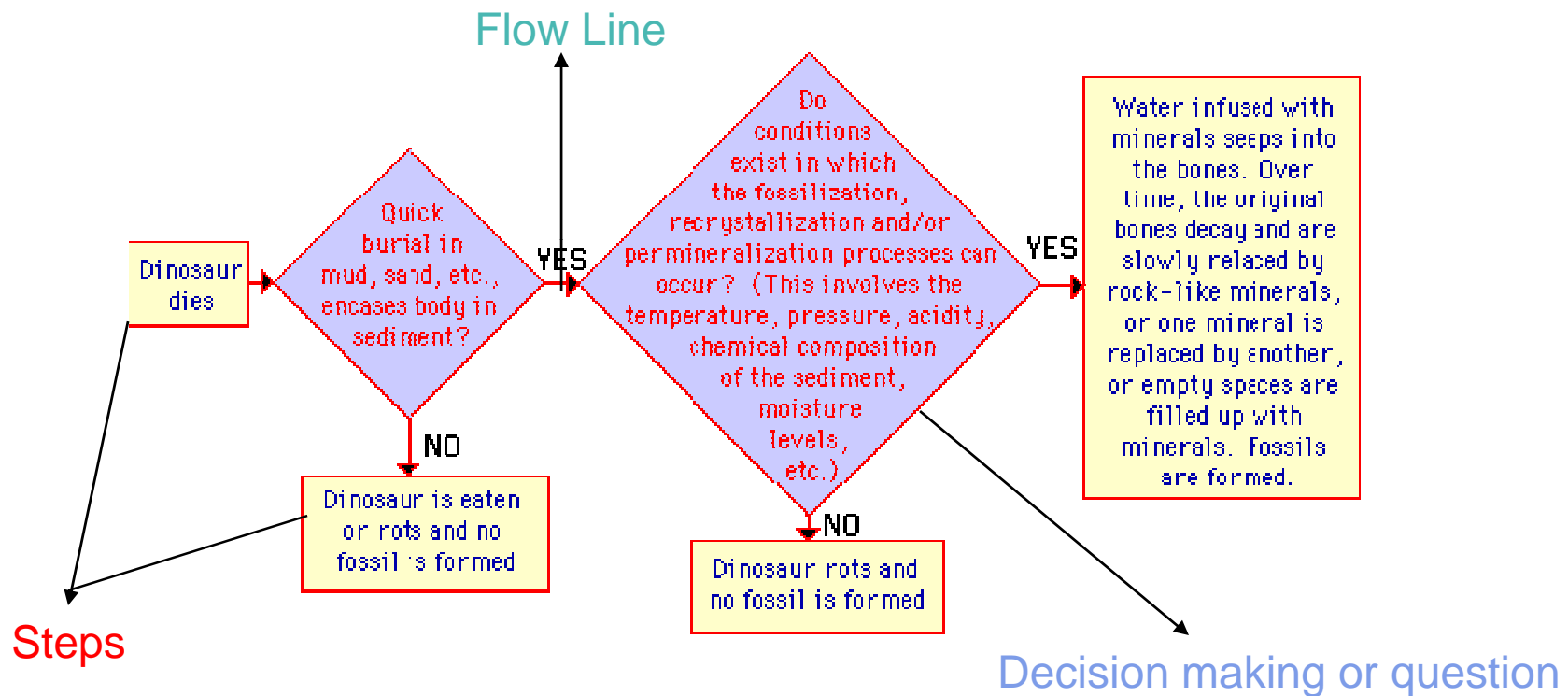
Sub-topics

Mapping





Flow Charts



Other Pre-writing Organizers

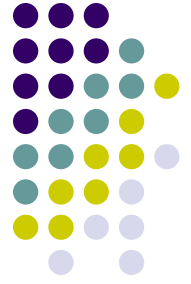
Freewriting



The bar was dark and smoky. Cool air whirred from the air-conditioner. All of the customers were men and no one talked except for an occasional request to the barmaid for a drink. An old man played pool. The barmaid had a beehive hairdo, long fingernails and a rouged face. Dark eyelashes rimmed her eyes. A smell wafted through the bar whenever anyone opened one of the bathroom doors. Each door was marked with a sign, "KINGS" and "QUEENS." Other signs dotted the bar, NO BEER SOLD TO MINORS by the cash register. Some had naughty connotations like a nut chasing a screw. That one took me awhile to figure out. Dad sat at the bar and I climbed into a stool next to him. From there I could see everything. I liked the old telephone booth. It had a door and a place to sit. When you close the door, a little light comes on above the telephone. When I entered that phone booth, the world seemed to stand still. I could imagine many things sitting there, staring at the black telephone. Of course I had to leave whenever anyone wanted to use it. The ceiling had many lamps that hung from gold chains. Some reminded me of the merry-go-round at the fair. Lots of bright lights and a few even rotates. The ceiling has so many it reminded me of a checkerboard. The juke box played country music and men over by the window talked. I couldn't hear what they were saying because of the noise of the air conditioner but their hands moved vividly. I liked watching people play pool because of those colored balls. Sometimes those balls strike each other with a loud crack and the colors spin throughout the table. Dad buys me a Pepsi and he orders a Falstaff from the barmaid. Other men sitting at the bar seem to be staring so hard at the paneled wall behind the bar like they're trying to solve some puzzle. Dad doesn't talk either, he seems to be thinking about something in his head. Cigarettes sit in their ashtrys, smoke rising to the ceiling, once in awhile someone lifts one to smoke it.

[Helping Writers Block](#)

Put it into Practice...



Listing

Mapping

Webbing

Flow Charts

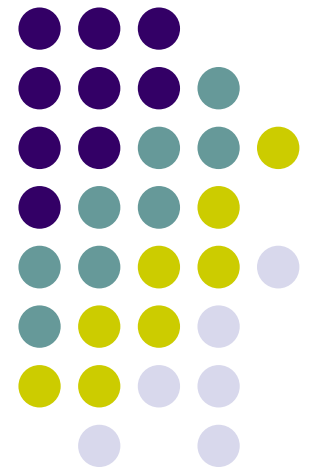
Freewriting

Brainstorming

Journal Entry

Thesis Statements

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The Center for Teaching and
Learning



What is a thesis statement?



It is the central message of the essay

It's the essay's main idea

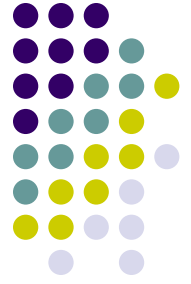
It prepares the readers

States the essay's topic

States the essay's purpose

Indicates the focus

A good thesis statement includes:



Subject that two people would disagree

Corresponds clearly with the assignment

Expresses one main idea

Assert your conclusions about the subject

Step 1



What do you notice?

What do you notice?

What do you notice?

What do you notice?

What do you notice?

What do you notice?

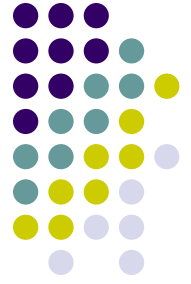
What do you notice?

What do you notice?

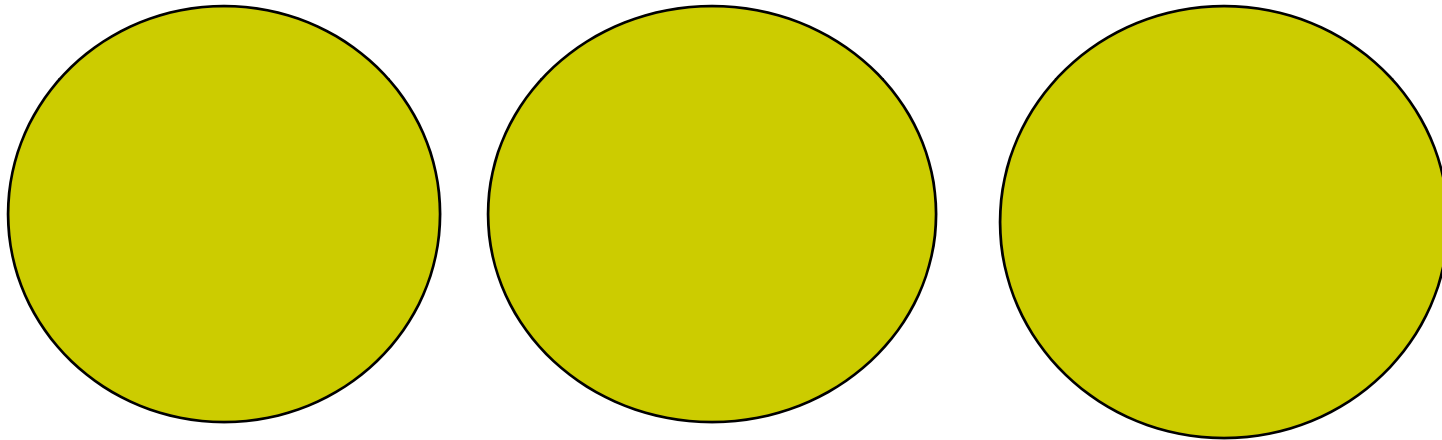
What do you notice? What do you notice?

What do you notice?

Step 2

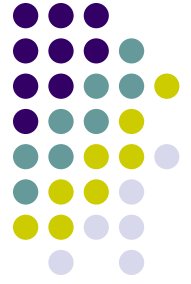


What 3 details are the most interesting?

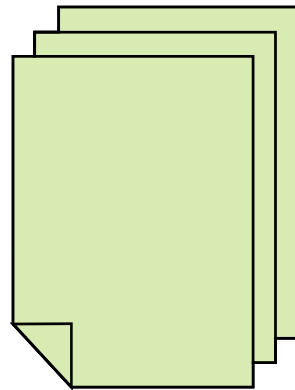


Circle these in your pre-writing activity.

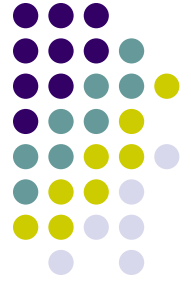
Step 3



Why are they the 3 most interesting details?



Having Trouble?



Q: “What are the potential benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade class?”

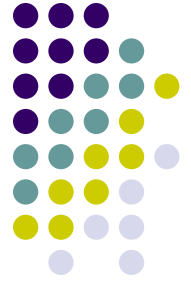
A: “The potential benefits of using computers in a fourth-grade class are”

OR

A: “Using computers in a fourth-grade class promises to improve”

The answer to the question is the thesis statement for the essay.

A strong thesis takes some sort of stand.



There are some negative and positive aspects to the Banana Herb Tea Supplement.

Vs.

Because Banana Herb Tea Supplement promotes rapid weight loss that results in the loss of muscle and lean body mass, it poses a potential danger to customers.

A strong thesis justifies discussion.

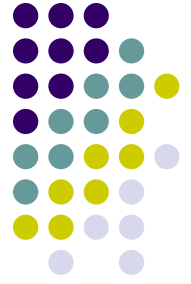


My family is an extended family.

Vs.

While most American families would view extended family as a burden, African American families, like my own, rely on extended family for support.

A strong thesis expresses one main idea.

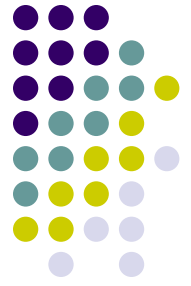


Companies need to exploit the marketing potential of the Internet, and web pages can provide both advertising and customer support.

Vs.

Because the Internet is filled with tremendous marketing potential, companies should exploit this potential by using web pages that offer both advertising and customer support.

A strong thesis statement is specific.



World hunger has many causes and effects.

Vs.

Hunger persists in Appalachia because jobs are scarce and farming in the infertile soil is rarely profitable.

Handouts



Valuable information to refer to later.

Websites that will be useful in the future.

Center for Teaching and Learning contact me:

206-6503 or ctlwrite@uis.edu