



Grow Your Writing: Articles

We create different types of writing for different purposes and with different strategies to reach different effects. This is an easy visual you can use for writing articles, essays, and various other papers.

Think of your article as a plant, with a main stalk branching off into several stems and flowers that together offer a complete picture. Your plant is rooted in an idea, supported by a specific focus within that, and then is adorned with details. Paragraphs are like daisies: they are a collection of sentences that link to a central thought, just as the petals attach to the middle of the bloom.

Here is a quick breakdown of the basic sections of an article:

Opening ~

This is your opportunity to introduce your topic, define what your focus on it will be, include any main supporting themes, and set the tone.

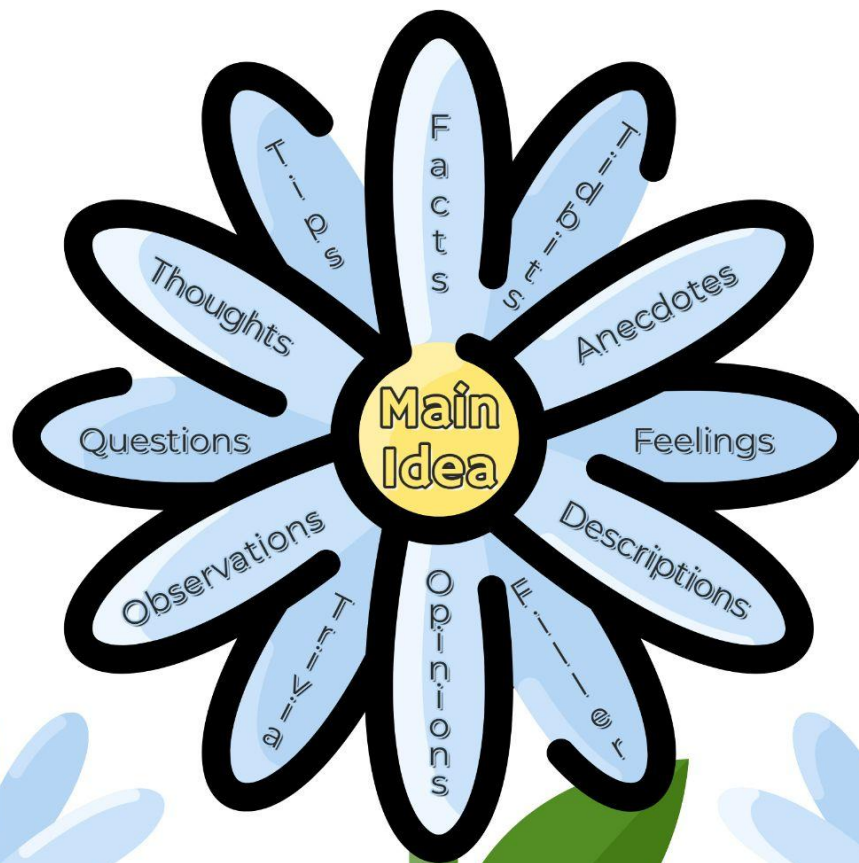
Body ~

Here is the heart of the matter. This might be three paragraphs or thirty, but it is your chance to offer up whatever idea you are wishing to convey. Write it all out and assess: is there a flow? Do the paragraphs need to be rearranged? Should some be added or taken away? They should act like stairs, building upon each other and leading your reader wherever it is you are wanting to take them.

Closing ~

Now you can briefly remind your reader what your point was, recap anything important, and decide how you want to leave them; should they have their curiosity sparked to learn more? Should they have all the information they need? Do you want to leave them laughing? Leave them thinking? Leave them inspired?

Lastly, remember that effective writing is only partially about the construction - it is also made up of your personal style and voice (which can actually overrule the layout at times!) Some good advice is to “write like you speak” - in other words, with a natural cadence and with language that is familiar to you. Happy writing!



Opening

Introduction of topic and key elements you will focus on

Paragraph

Closing

Summary of topic and points to reach desired effect

Body

Series of paragraphs that flow and build to develop your topic

Article

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WRITING