

| WRITING FOUNDATIONS SERIES

Generation & Thesis



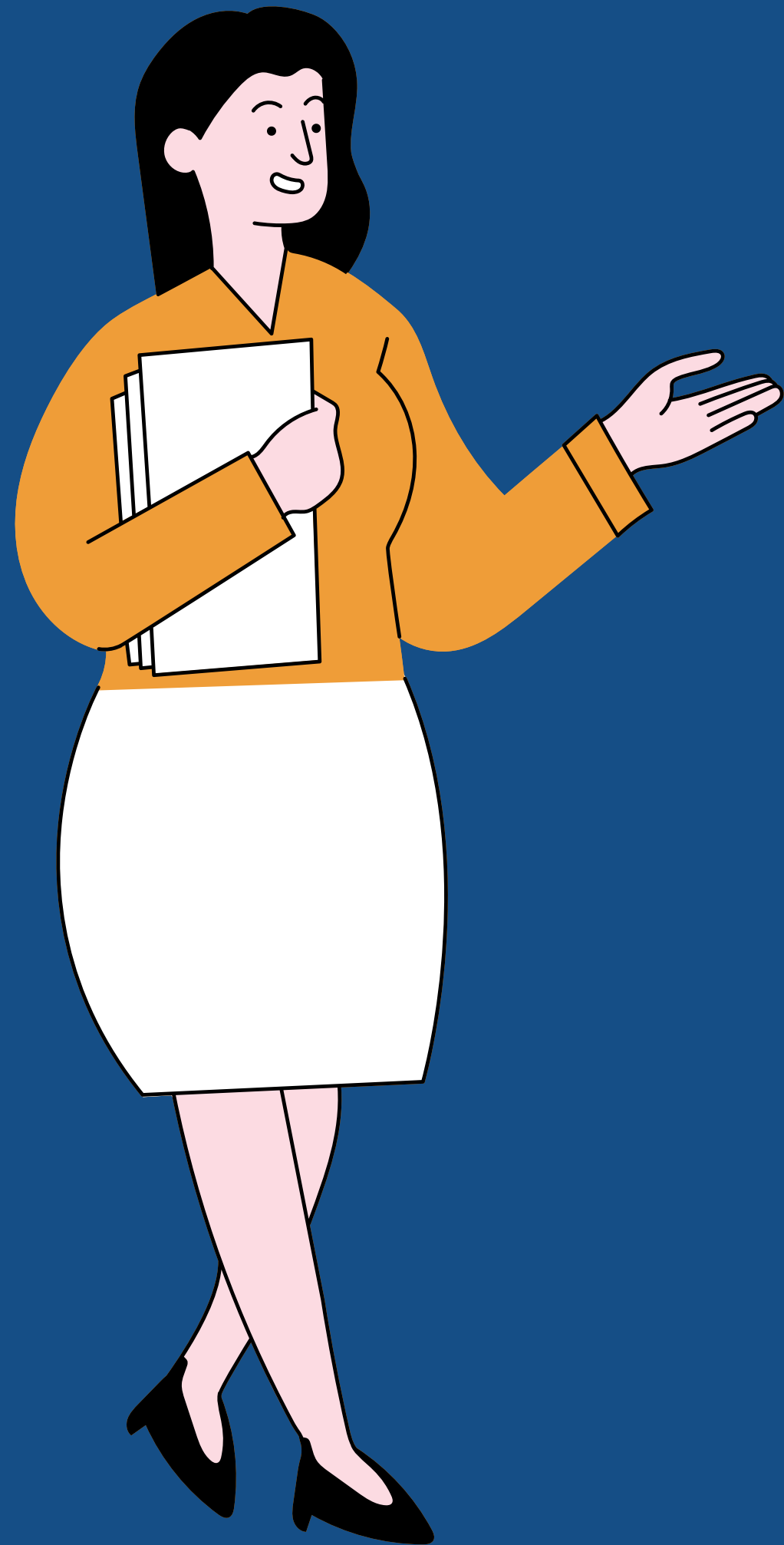
Objectives.

Gain familiarity with using **Generation** tools.

Understand how to **focus** an essay after Generation Stage.

Understand the elements of and evaluate for a strong **thesis**.





Overview.

Question Analysis

Understanding

Generating

Brainstorming, Developing, Exploring

Focusing

Purpose, Thesis



Generating.

Problem:

You have your essay prompt but you have no idea where to start.

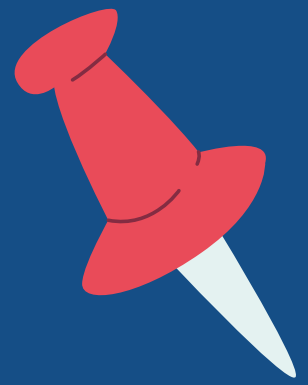




Starting Point

Question Analysis

What might you need to take note of within the Qn?



Starting Point Question Analysis

Question Demands

What does the writing task need you to do?

- PPT: Counter-Arg + Response?
- LH: Close-reading? Literary Analysis

- Compare/Contrast
- Apply
- Relate

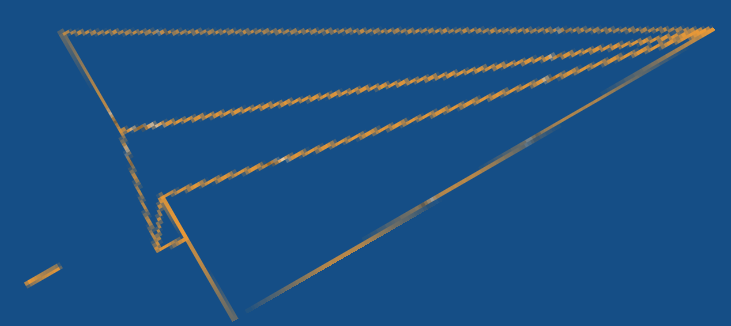
Relation Words

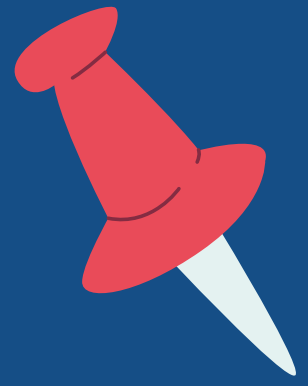
Information Words

- Summarise
- Explain
- Illustrate with examples

Materials Available

- Secondary sources?
- Primary Materials? Cross-references?





Starting Point Question Analysis

EXERCISE #1 Question Unpacking

WRITE YOUR QUESTION INTO THE BOX BELOW.
IF YOU ARE DOING YOUR OWN QUESTION AND HAVE YET TO COME UP
WITH ONE, USE A GIVEN QUESTION FROM YOUR QUESTION PAPER OR
BORROW A FRIEND'S ONE!

IDENTIFY:

Try this out with
your neighbour!

Now What?



4 Strategies.

Freewriting

Clustering

Webbing

Questioning





Freewriting.

A continuous stream of writing anything that comes to mind relating to the question at hand.



Freewriting.

The PSC Scholarships is the most prestigious SG government scholarships. Typically those in elite schools receive them, although the PSC has committed to having more awardees from non-elite JCs and the Polys. I wonder how effective that has been. Many of the **Parliament Ministers are also PSC scholars themselves; what might this say about the the relationship of public service and politics?** Where do these scholars typically study? Usually need good academic qualifications to stand a chance. Is there an inequality of educational opportunity and reproduces a disparity in academic achievement?

PSC and Reproduction of Elitism

PSC and Political Office Overlap -> Implications? Opposes Weber

Type of education received -> Implications? Fanon's colonised Intellectuals?



Freewriting.

I notice how Decameron presents a spatial separation between the City and the Countryside. The city is in ruin and disarray from the plague. But the country? Looks quite idyllic leh, the characters sit around and chat, tell stories all. Don't even need to wear masks! Perhaps there is some presentation of ideal (unattainable?) vs actual circumstances of life? Perhaps governance/social order? The plague is described to be a product of bad order/governance, but the group of friends set in place a system of taking turns that seems to function well...

Two distinct spaces of town and city

Ideal vs Actual Circumstances

Governance & Politics

Benefits of Peer Freewriting

Speak your
mind without
censoring your
ideas

Your peers can
help ask
questions and
refine your ideas

Some people
express
themselves
better through
speech



Freewriting Peer Exercise!

EXERCISE # 2

Peer Freewrite

EXCHANGE HANDOUTS WITH YOUR PARTNER.

TAKE NOTES FOR YOUR PARTNER AS THEY DESCRIBE THEIR THOUGHTS, OBSERVATIONS OR IDEAS RELATING TO THEIR ESSAY. FEEL FREE TO DRAW DIAGRAMS, MINDMAPS, ETC TO HELP RECORD WHAT YOUR PARTNER HAS SHARED

| 5 MINUTES

Any interesting points
from your discussions?



From Freewriting to Question Setting



I notice how Decameron presents a spatial separation between the City and the Countryside. The city is in ruin and disarray from the plague. But the country? Looks quite idyllic leh, the characters sit around and chat, tell stories all. Don't even need to wear masks! Perhaps there is some presentation of ideal (unattainable?) vs actual circumstances of life? Perhaps governance/social order? The plague is described to be a product of bad order/governance, but the group of friends set in place a system of taking turns that seems to function well...

Governance &
Politics



Another text that also
comments on Govt/Politics?
Sima Qian?

From Freewriting to Question Setting



I notice how Decameron presents a spatial separation between the City and the Countryside. The city is in ruin and disarray from the plague. But the country? Looks quite idyllic leh, the characters sit around and chat, tell stories all. Don't even need to wear masks! Perhaps there is some presentation of ideal (unattainable?) vs actual circumstances of life? Perhaps governance/social order? The plague is described to be a product of bad order/governance, but the group of friends set in place a system of taking turns that seems to function well...



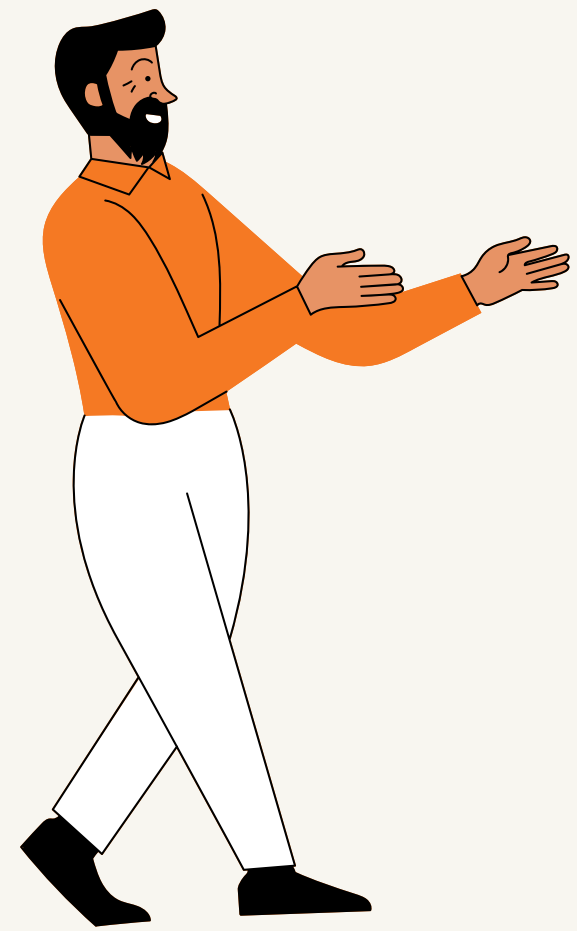
From Freewriting to Question Setting.



I notice how Decameron presents a spatial separation between the City and the Countryside. The city is in ruin and disarray from the plague. But the country? Looks quite idyllic leh, the characters sit around and chat, tell stories all. Don't even need to wear masks! Perhaps there is some presentation of ideal (unattainable?) vs actual circumstances of life? Perhaps governance/social order? The plague is described to be a product of bad order/governance, but the group of friends set in place a system of taking turns that seems to function well...



Compare and contrast the criticisms of ruling institutions contained within Boccaccio's Decameron and Sima Qian's Shi Ji: The Annals of Emperor Gaozu.



Webbing & Clustering

Developing Ideas further by
branching off from previous
ones.



Starting Points?

Freewriting





Starting Points?

Themes

How is the theme depicted in the text? [Literary devices, Author's position]

What effect does the theme have on you? Why?



Starting Points?

What surprised you?

What confused you?

What triggered you?

What caught your attention?

What related to you?

+

WHY?

Signposts

Odd lines

Descriptions

Colour Schemes

*Repeated Words,
imagery, symbols*

Camera Angles

Shot composition

What surprised you?

What confused you?

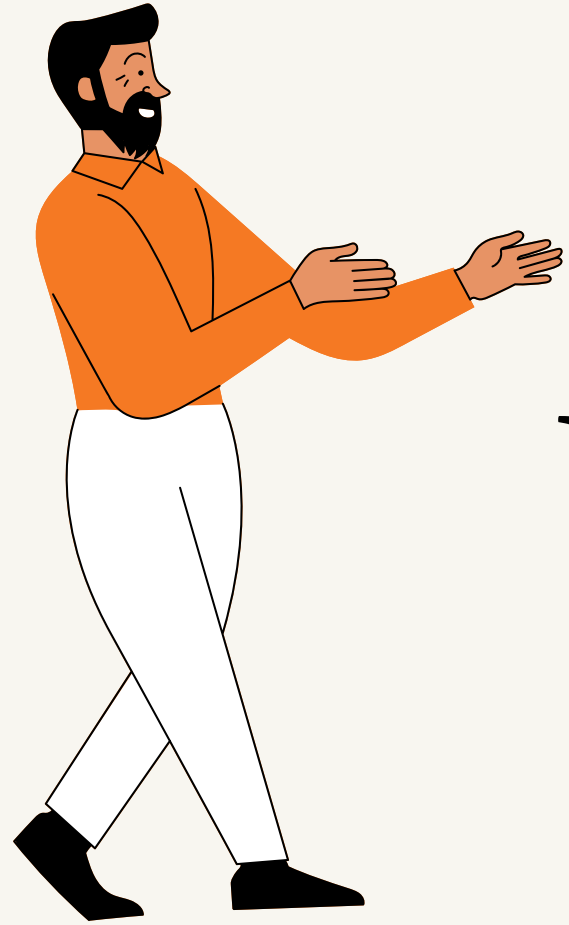
What triggered you?

What caught your attention?

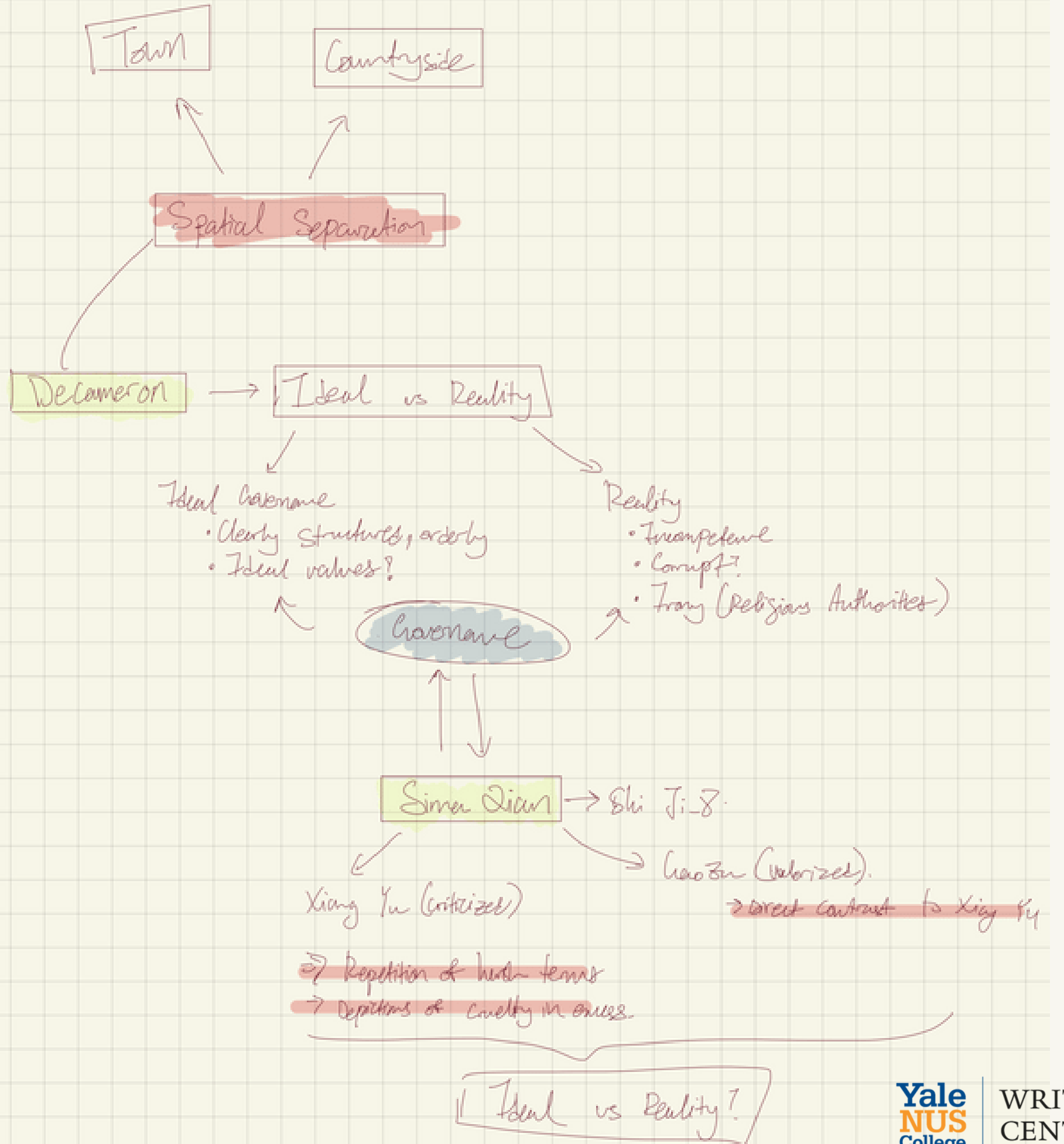
What related to you?

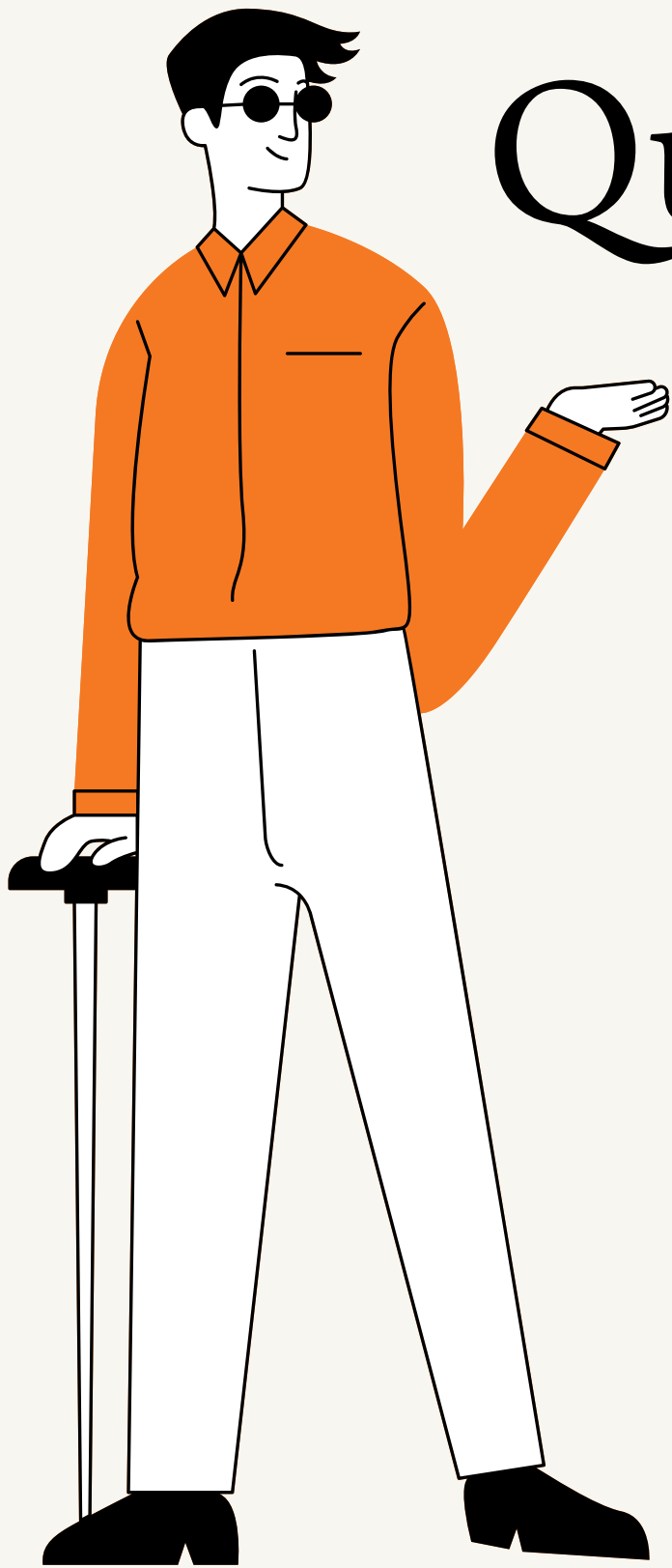
+

WHY?



Webbing & Clustering





Questioning.

Developing Points Further.

Questions to Explain

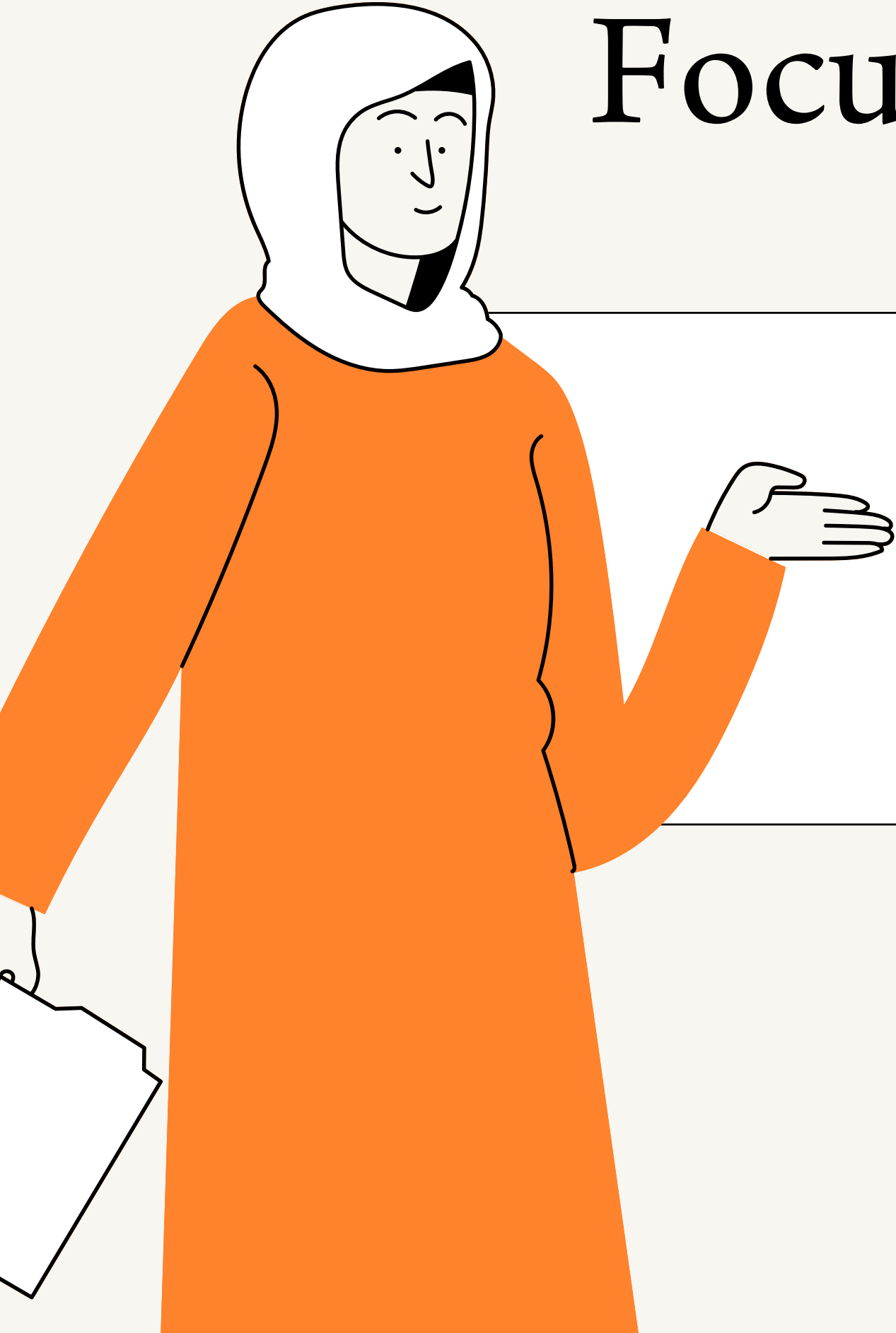
Who is doing it?
What is at issue?
When does it take place?
Where is it taking place?
Why does it occur?
How is it done?

Questions to Persuade

What claim are you making about your topic?
What good reasons support your claim?
What valid underlying assumptions support the reasons for your claim?
What backup evidence can you find for your claim?
What refutations of your claim should you anticipate and address?
In what ways should you qualify your claim?



Focusing.



Focusing your Paper.

Scope.

What will your essay ultimately prove/show



Set Essay Scope

EXERCISE #3 Focusing The Essay

ON YOUR OWN HANDOUTS;

LOOKING AT THE POINTS FROM THE PREVIOUS ACTIVITY, FREEWRITE
WHAT THE SCOPE OF YOUR ESSAY WILL BE;

WHAT WILL YOUR ESSAY SEEK TO SHOW?

THIS IS NOT YOUR THESIS, BUT A FIRST STEP TO GROUND WHAT YOUR ESSAY WILL PROVE

Elements of a Thesis.

Topic

What material/content is going to be discussed

Relevance

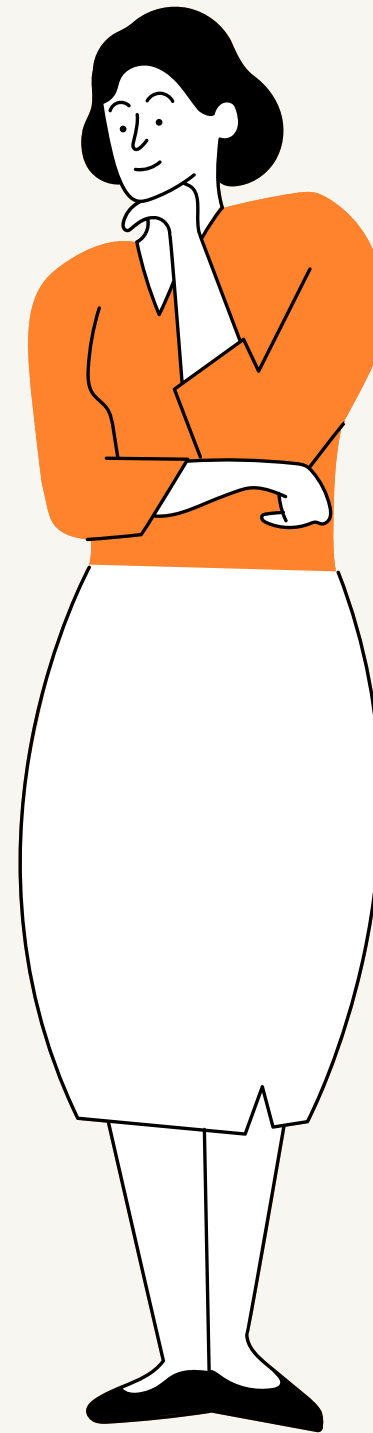
Why is this claim important to discuss? Why is it significant?

Overall Claim

What about this material/content are you going to show/prove?

Roadmap

How will you demonstrate your claim?



Thesis Checklist.



Argumentative, not descriptive.

They should contain a claim that could be disputed, not mere observations from the material.

Specific.

Is your claim too general (can be easily applied to another text/topic)?

Does your claim consider specific features of the material you are writing on/wider discourses it engages with?

Manageable

Can you fully espouse your claim within the length of the paper? Do you need to trim timeframe/amount of the text you will consider?



Recap.



Starting Point Question Analysis

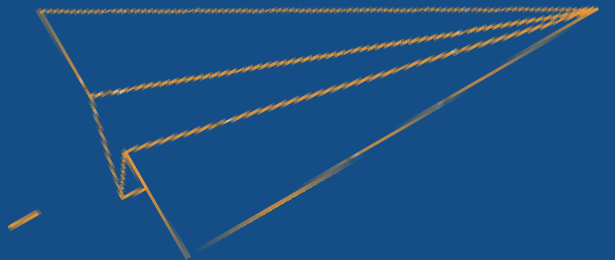
● Question Demands

What does the writing task need you to do?

- PPT: Counter-Arg + Response?
- LH: Close-reading? Comparison

- Secondary sources?
- Primary Materials? Cross-references?

Materials Available

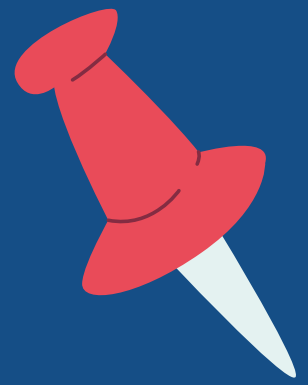


Information Words

- Summarise
- Explain
- Illustrate with examples

● Relation Words

- Compare/Contrast
- Apply
- Relate



Starting Point Question Analysis

Question Demands

What does the writing task need you to do?

- PPT: Counter-Arg + Response?
- LH: Close-reading? Comparison

- Compare/Contrast
- Apply
- Relate

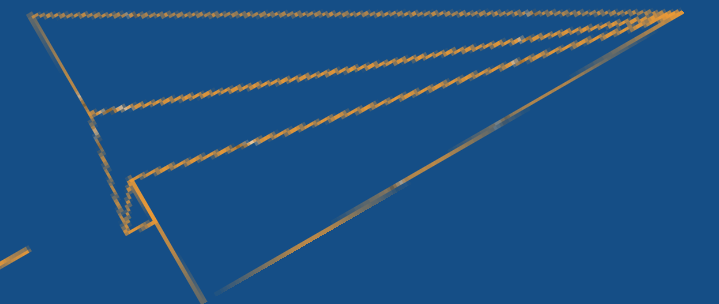
Relation Words

Information Words

- Summarise
- Explain
- Illustrate with examples

Materials Available

- Secondary sources?
- Primary Materials? Cross-references?



4 Strategies of Generation.

Freewriting

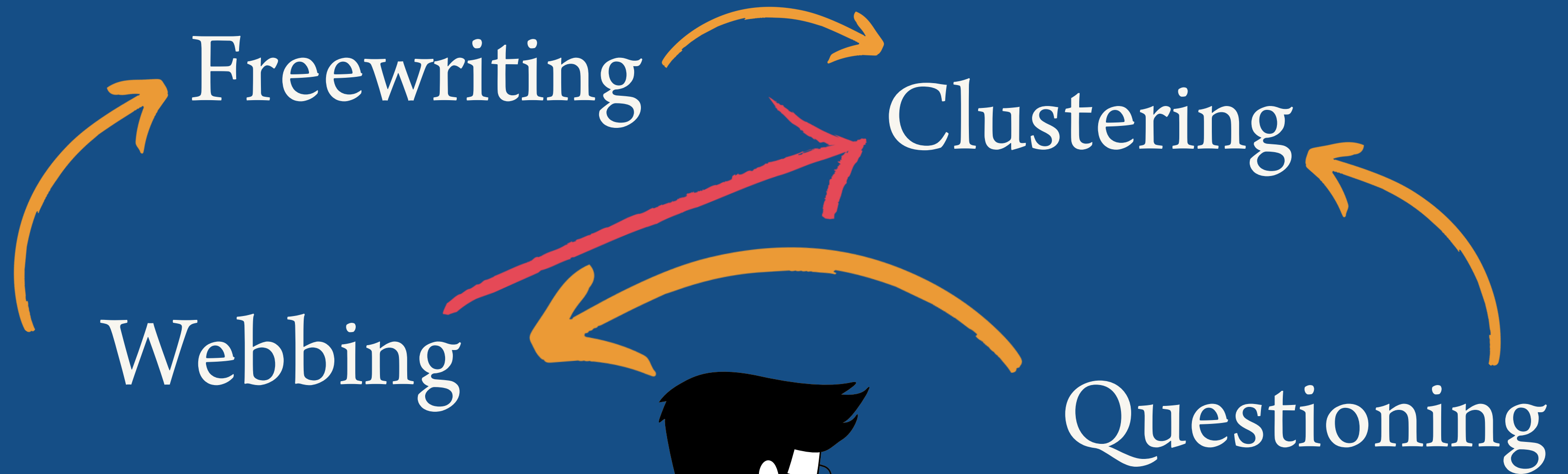
Clustering

Webbing

Questioning



4 Strategies of Generation.



Book 1-on-1 consults
with our peer tutors!

yalenus.mywconline.com