

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;

QUESTION DEMANDS

WHAT DOES THE
WRITING TASK
REQUIRE YOU TO DO?

INFORMATION & RELATION WORDS

INFORMATION:
SUMMARISE,
EXPLAIN, ILLUSTRATE

RELATION:
COMPARE,
CONTRAST, APPLY,
RELATE

MATERIALS TO USE

WHAT MATERIALS
SHOULD YOU
CONSULT?

STARTING POINTS

What in the text surprised, shocked, confused, triggered, related to you?

WHY?

What are some key themes in the text? How are they depicted and what effect did the depiction have on you?

WHY?

TIPS

If you need to compare between texts; look for points of comparison that arise during webbing/clustering

If you need to apply an abstract concept; ask where you might see that concept occur

If you need to illustrate with examples, try explaining the material in freewriting to yourself, do you use any examples to help you?

FREEWRTING

A continuous stream of writing on anything that comes to mind about the question/texts. Identify ideas/observations/ questions that come out during freewriting to expand further upon.

Consider having a peer scribe your ideas/observations/ questions as you speak them out. This may lead to your peer identifying connections or ideas initially not thought about.

WEBBING/ CLUSTERING

A web of ideas that relate to the question or text/s. Branch out as much as you can, then cluster synergistic points/ideas together (similar perspectives, type of analysis, etc)

FREESTYLE

Combine these different strategies in different orders to find what is comfortable for you and helpful for the essay at hand!

QUESTIONING

Use the set of questions to help you open up the question or guide you to novel components of the text.

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;

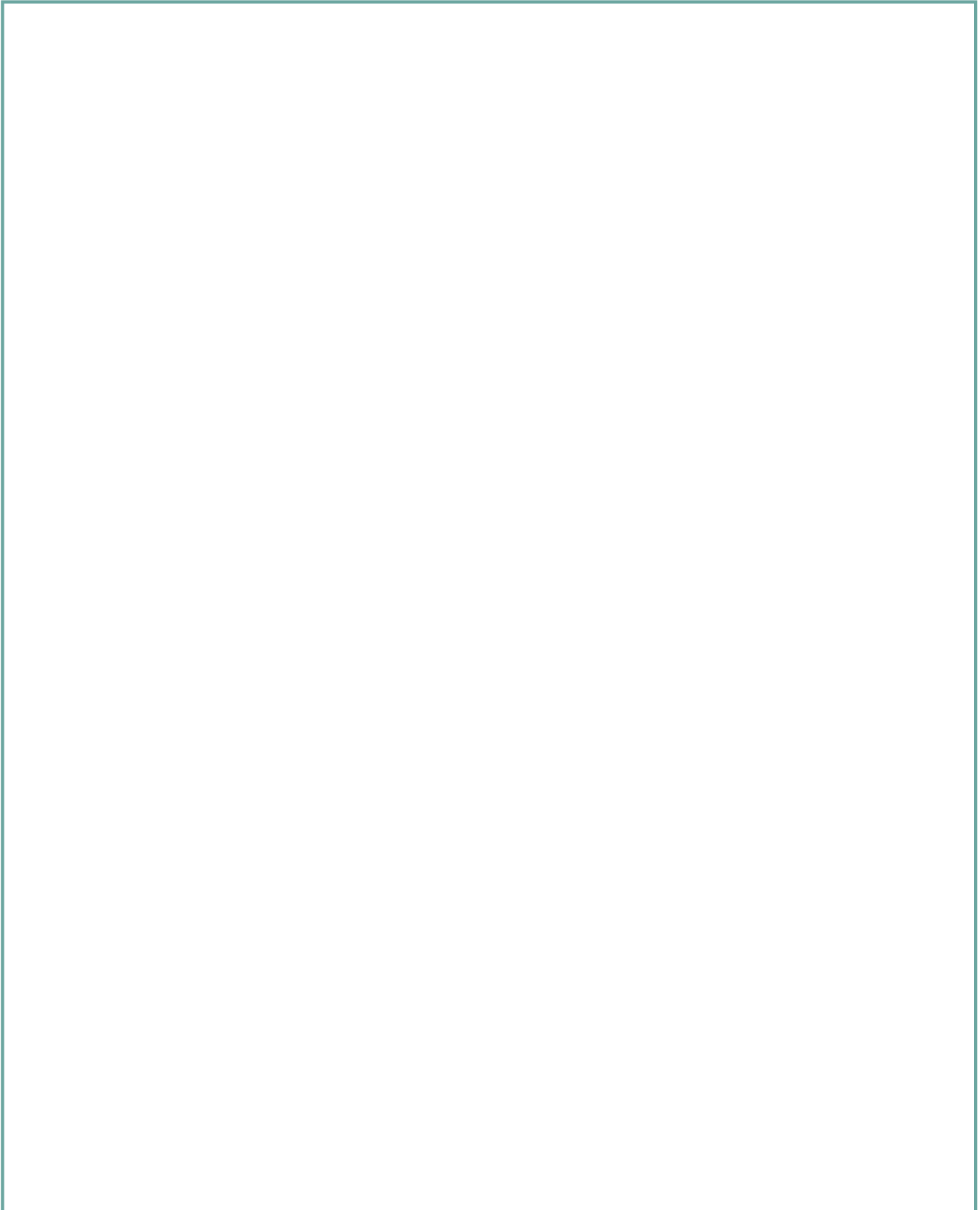
What claim are you making about your topic?
What good reasons support your claim?
What valid underlying assumptions support the reasons for your claim?
What backup evidence can you find for your claim?
What refutations of your claim should you anticipate and address?
In what ways should you qualify your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

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

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin teal border, intended for students to take notes or draw diagrams during the peer freewrite activity.

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

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin teal border, intended for the student to freewrite their response to the prompt.

EXERCISE # 4

Draft Thesis

WRITE OUT A WORKING VERSION OF YOUR THESIS, THAT INCLUDES THE 4 ELEMENTS OF A STRONG THESIS.



TOPIC: WHAT MATERIAL WILL BE DISCUSSED



RELEVANCE: WHY IS THIS CLAIM IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS/SIGNIFICANT



OVERALL CLAIM: WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO 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?