

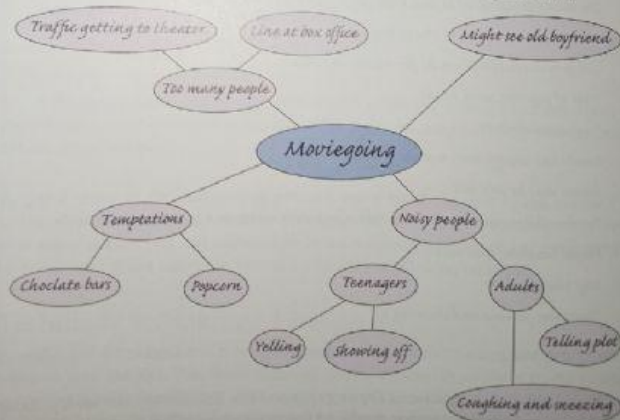
Technique 4: Clustering

Clustering, also known as *diagramming* or *mapping*, is another strategy that can be used to generate material for an essay. This method is helpful for people who like to do their thinking in a visual way. In clustering, you use lines, boxes, arrows, and circles to show relationships among the ideas and details that occur to you.

Begin by stating your subject in a few words in the center of a blank sheet of paper. Then, as ideas and details come to you, put them in boxes or circles around the subject and draw lines to connect them to each other and to the subject. Put minor ideas or details in smaller boxes or circles, and use connecting lines to show how they relate as well.

Clustering: A Student Model

Keep in mind that there is no right or wrong way of clustering or diagramming. It is a way to think on paper about how various ideas and details relate to one another. Below is an example of what Diane might have done to develop her ideas.



- Clustering is a **simple technique** to **expand your main idea** into **smaller supporting details**.

- Can you guess the essay topic?

- One key to effective outlining is the ability to distinguish between major ideas and minor details.
- In this list, add the supporting details.

Thesis: Online learning is difficult for students.

(A) Limited technology

- 1.
- 2.

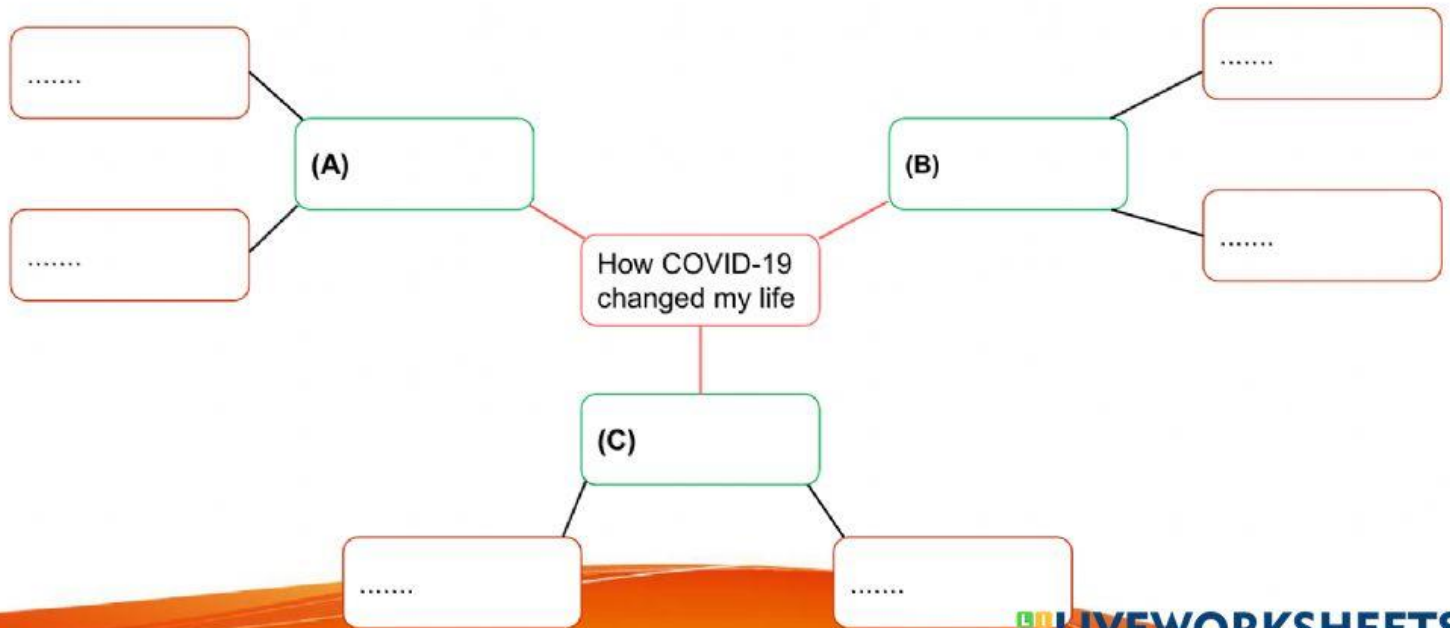
(B) No social interaction

- 1.
- 2.

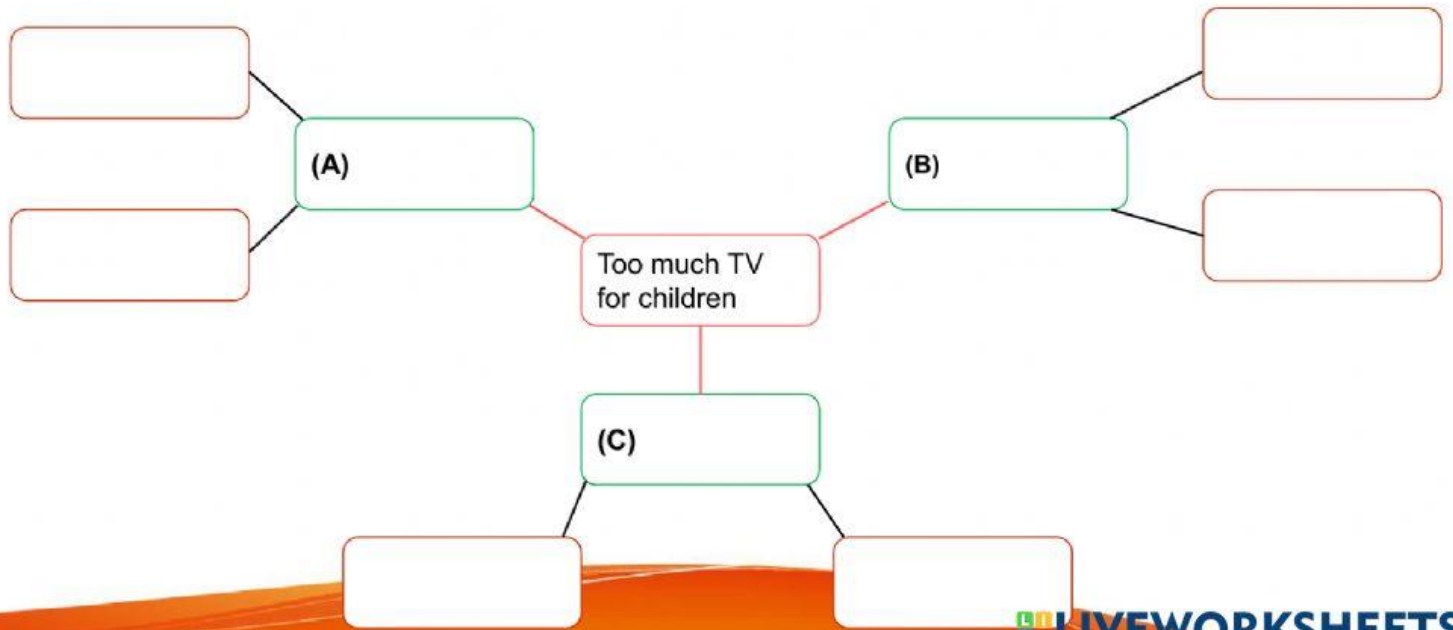
(C) Many distractions

- 1.
- 2.

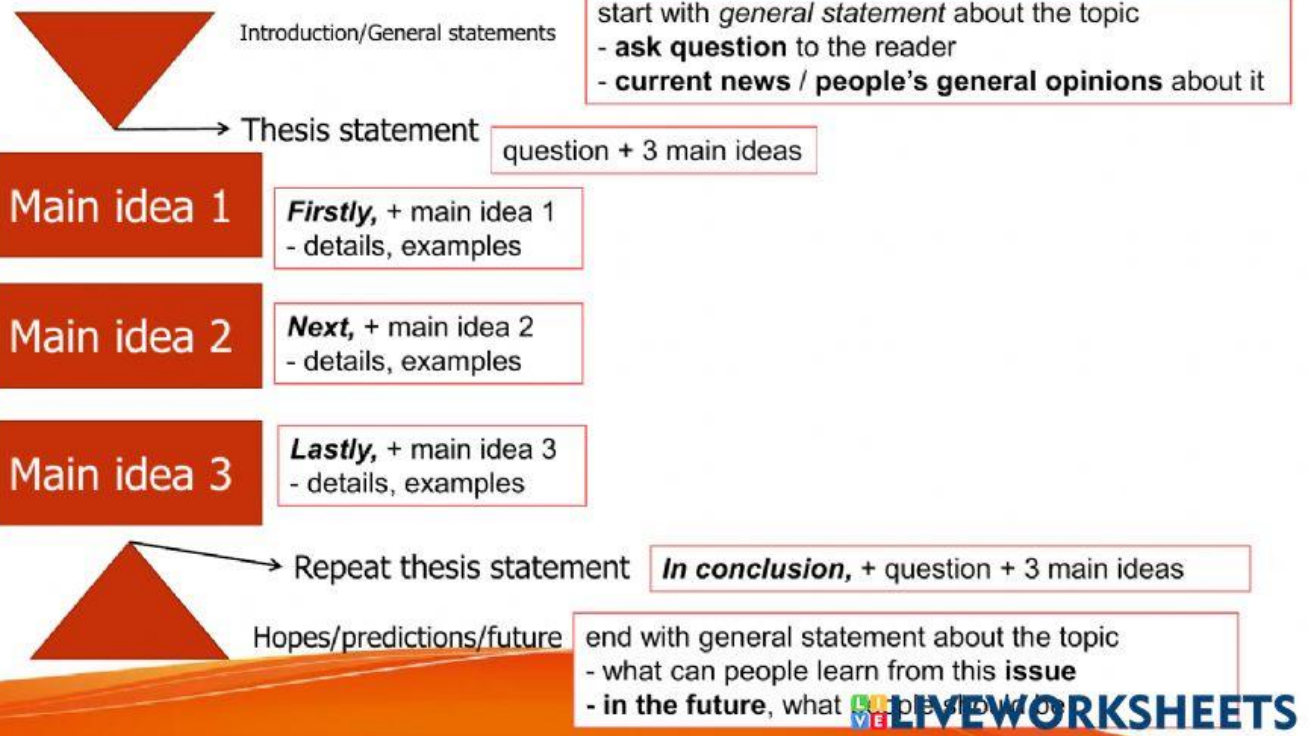
- One key to effective outlining is using the cluster technique, to build up your points.
- As a class, discuss on to fill the mind-map with your points.



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How does your essay look like?



Can you arrange these sentences into its correct sequence?



Firstly, students shouldn't be separated by gender because everyone have equal rights to be friends.

Nowadays, there's a rise of co-ed schools, which are getting more popular then single sex schools. However, many people seem to make mixed opinions about co-ed schools.

Next, boys and girls shouldn't be in separate classes because they can share different ideas.

Boys and girls shouldn't have separated classes because of equal rights to be friends, share different ideas and reduce amount of classes.

In conclusion, students shouldn't be classified in gender classes because of equal rights to be friends, share different ideas and reduce amount of classes.

Lastly, students shouldn't be separated by gender in order to reduce the amount of classes.

From this, students can learn to be open minded to other gender, and accept everyone equally.