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Finding ideas, pre-structuring the text

Goal

To support the students in developing and ordering ideas in an associative manner before writing (and still unencumbered by language requirements). It is of great importance that the teacher carefully explain and go through the procedure with the class.

Three procedures for finding and ordering ideas:

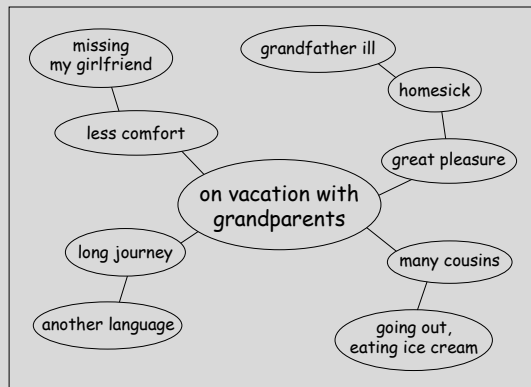
1. Cluster

2nd – 9th grade

20 minutes



Materials:
A3 or A4 paper.



This method works well for trying to find ideas for imaginative texts associatively, e.g. for a story or an imaginative text. The instructor provides an example, similar to the one above, with the following instructions: take a sheet of A4 or

A3 paper sideways. In the middle of the page, write the title or topic you will write about. Circle the title. Around this, jot down your ideas and circle them. Some of the ideas lead to other thoughts, lines and circles and whole chains of ideas. If you have difficulties doing the cluster in the first language, you may use the school language. After about 5 minutes you should look at your collection of ideas and mark in color and numbers the ones you want to use in writing your text and in which order to use them.

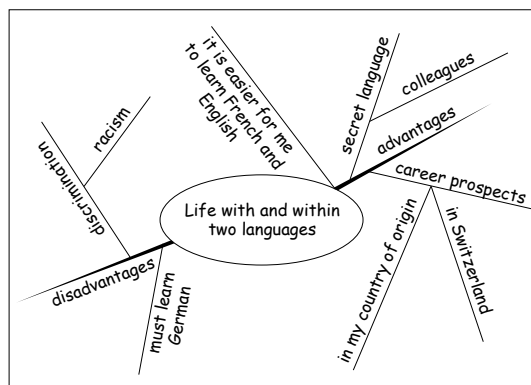
2. Mind-Map

4th – 9th grade

20 minutes



Materials:
A3 or A4 paper.



This approach is particularly suitable for the structuring of factual texts.

Instructions: Draw a couple of main branches (thick lines) and write on them the most important aspects or ideas related

to the topic that come to mind. Smaller branches with connected ideas are then added to the main branches. If you have problems with writing in your first language, you may use the school language. After a few minutes, review the mind map, and using numbers and colors, mark the sequence of the sub-topics or aspects, e.g., what you want to address first and what will be dealt with subsequently.