

Teaching the

Multi-Paragraph Essay:



## Jane Schaffer Background

Jane Schaffer Curriculum materials for novels, composition and mythology can be found at:

http://www.curriculumguides.com

Jane Schaffer Publications offers tested and proven curriculum materials for composition and literature. The guides have been successful in grades 7 through 12, at all ability levels.



**Essay** – a piece of writing that gives thoughts (commentary) about a subject.

Types of writing include:

**CLASSIFICATORY:** To Inform

**PERSUASIVE**: To Persuade

**DESCRIPTIVE:** To Describe



Essays must be a minimum of 4 paragraphs including the following parts:

I: Intro 40+ words

II: 1<sup>st</sup> body paragraph (100 + words)

III: 2<sup>nd</sup> body paragraph (100 + words)

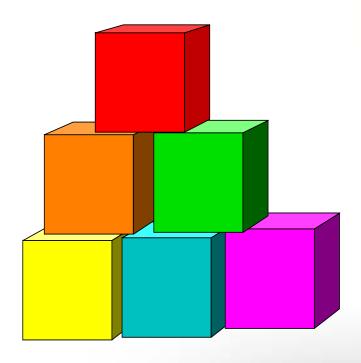
IV: Concluding paragraph 40+ words)



#### **Overview:**

#### **Steps in the Writing Process:**

- 1. Pre-Writing
- 2. Shaping the Essay
- 3. First Draft
- 4. Peer Response
- 5. Revision
- 6. Final Draft





**Parts** 

1. Introductory Paragraph

of

2. Thesis

the

3. Body Paragraph

16

4. Topic Sentence

Essay:

5. Concrete Detail

6. Commentary

7. Chunk

8. Concluding Sentence

9. Conclusion Paragraph



Thesis – a sentence with a subject and opinion. Often appears at the end of introductory paragraph.

**Pre-writing** – the process of getting concrete Details on paper before organizing paragraphs.

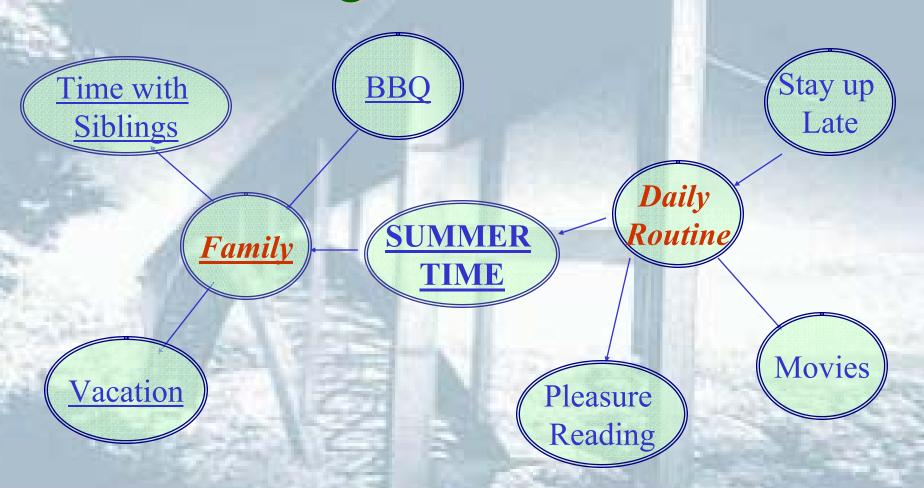
Bubble Cluster Spider Chaster

Outline Cluster

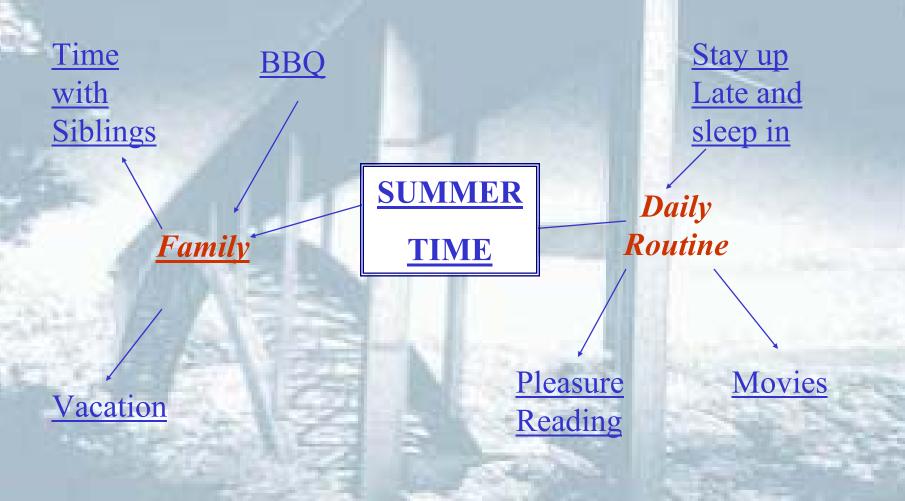
Columns

Line Cluster

# Jane Schaffer Writing Prewriting - Bubble Clusters



# Jane Schaffer Writing Prewriting - SPIDER Clusters



# Jane Schaffer Writing Prewriting - Outline

Getting A Computer



- A. Comparison Shopping
- B. Talking to Sales persons



#### II. Setting it Up

- A. Tried to Read the Manual
- B. Friend came into Teach

# Jane Schaffer Writing Prewriting - Columns

#### **TWO CHARACTERS**



ALIKE	DIFFERENT
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.



# Jane Schaffer Writing Prewriting - Columns

#### **BEING FAMOUS**

ADVANTAGES	DISADVANTAGES
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
Service Control of the Control of th	

# Jane Schaffer Writing Prewriting - Columns

- 1. MY TWO BEST FRIENDS
- 2. CHERYL

**JOE** 

3. Known since first grade

Have four classes together

Lives down the street.

Take martial arts class with



Ratio

the ration of

1 part concrete detail (CD) and

2 parts commentary (CM)

CD : CM

1:2



Introduction — the first paragraph in an essay. It includes the thesis, most often at the end.

! ATTENTION

! ATTENTION



Body Paragraph

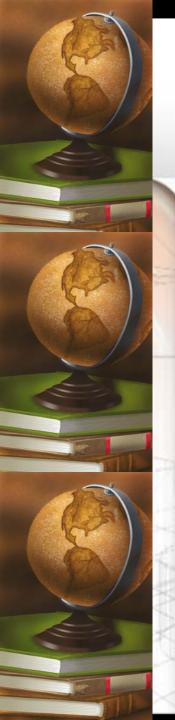
a middle paragraph in an essay used to develop a point and support the thesis.



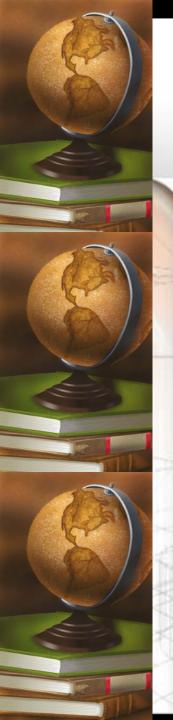


**Shaping the Essay** done <u>after</u> the prewriting and <u>before</u> the first draft of an essay.

It's an OUTLINE of a THESIS, TS, CD, CM ideas



Topic Sentence the first sentence in a body paragraph.



#### **Concrete Details**

**Examples** 

**Facts** 

**Details** 

**Specifics** 

**Statistics** 

**Illustrations** 



**Commentary** 

**Opinions** 

Supporting sentences

**Explanation** 



Chunk

**ONE Concrete Detail (CD)** 

and

TWO Commentary (CM).



#### **PRACTICE:**

**Sentence 1: (TS)** The walls in this room are dull and boring.

Sentence 2: (CD) For example,

Sentence 3: (CM)

Sentence 4: (CM)



#### **PRACTICE:**

**Sentence 1: (TS)** I hate Christmas shopping.

Sentence 2: (CD) For example,

**Sentence 3: (CM)** 

Sentence 4: (CM)



#### **PRACTICE:**

**Sentence 1: (TS)** O'Henry uses irony to provide humor and suspense in his short stories.

Sentence 2: (CD)

Sentence 3: (CM)

Sentence 4: (CM)



**Concluding Sentence-** the last sentence in a body paragraph.



ALL COMMENTARY



Gives a finished feeling to the paragraph



DOES Not include KEYWORDS from the paragraph



Concluding Paragraph – may sum up ideas, reflect on what was said in the essay, give more commentary, or a personal statement about the subject.







Gives A
Finished
Feeling To
The Essay

Does Not Repeat Keywords From The Paper Or Intro.



#### **BODY PARAGRAPH SAMPLE**

**TS = Topic Sentence** 

**CD** = **Concrete Detail** 

**CM** = **Commentary** 

<-- Chunk

**Cm** = **Commentary** 

**CD** = **Concrete Detail** 

**CM** = **Commentary** 

<-- Chunk

**Cm** = **Commentary** 

**CS** = **Closing Sentence** 



#### **AUDIENCE**



- many of the same factors which affect the writer also affect the audience
- age
- social class
- education



#### PEER RESPONSE





## **Essay Scoring Guide**

#### A – Brilliant/Excellent

- ✓ Format includes excellent concrete detail
- √ Format includes insightful commentary
- √ Find corrections
- ✓ Organization is clear and logical
- √ Very few, if any mechanical errors
- **✓** Excellent sentence variety
- ✓ Correct and skillful use of transitions
- √ Repeats little or not at all



- Title
- Introduction
  - Thesis statement
- Body Paragraphs
  - TS
  - CD
  - CM
  - CM
  - CD
  - CM
  - CM
  - CS
- Conclusion

