

Think About Writing - Keys to Getting the Grades You Want

Ideation: The Generation of Ideas!

- Did I sit and brainstorm at least 10 ideas before choosing one?
- Does my paper have a clear, focused idea?
- Did I use details? Elaborate? Did I provide in-depth coverage of my topic?
- Did I choose a title that fits my writing and intrigues the reader?

Organization

- Does my piece have a clear beginning, middle, and end?
- Does the first paragraph grab the reader's attention?
- Does the first paragraph clearly forecast with the rest of my writing is going to examine or say?

Paragraphs

- Do topic sentences relate to the theme of my writing?
- After my topic sentence, do the following sentences offer support and clarity to the idea in my opening sentence?
- Do successive paragraphs develop major points and seamless transitions that help the reader understand how I am developing my theme?
- Are my paragraphs connected (sequenced) logically?
- Does my final paragraph offer a quick review of the paper's main idea or argument? (paragraphs too short or too long should be re-examined)
- Did I indent my paragraphs?

Word choice

- Did I use interesting words? Words that create pictures in the reader's mind?
- Did I use too much slang or no-no words? NO - cool, awesome, stuff, "like", etc.
- Did I use "that" inappropriately?
- Did I use similes and other types of figurative language?

Sentence fluency

- Do my sentences sound smooth? Does my writing make sense?
- Do I vary the style of sentences? (too many simple sentences = choppy writing)

Voice

- Does my piece have spark? Show my personality?
- Does it sound like I care about the topic? Is this my best work?
- Does the writing create emotion on the part of the reader?

Mechanics

- Did I check my capitals, periods, and spelling?
- Does every sentence begin with a capital letter? Do names?
- Did I use commas to separate words in a series?
- Did all of my sentences end with the right punctuation mark?