

# Teaching ELLs to Outline

Article # 10  
Visible Literacy Series



The goal of this infographic is to share four ways to help ELs organize ideas before writing.

## Research Suggests

Social language is learned contextually while academic language is independent of context (Cummins, 1991).



ELs depend on their educators to explicitly teach the academic register.

When educators illustrate how language differs depending on the discipline, they help ELs internalize how to effectively communicate within that field (Chamot & O'Malley, 1994).

## The Methods

### 1 Numbering the Mind Map

Assign numbers to major points in the mind map. The numbering becomes the order in which students present their ideas.



### 2 Sticky Noting

Capture the major points that the ELs want to communicate.

One point per sticky note. Order the sticky notes in the chronology that the ELs desire.



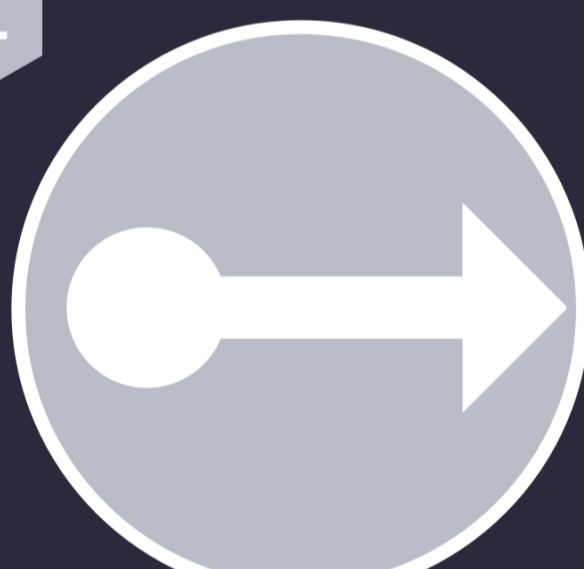
3



### Mind Mapping Software

Use free online software such as Mind Mup to help students organize their ideas. Add the major points using the software. Arrange according to the students' preference.

4



### Linear Outlining

Arrange the major points from "good", "better"; to "best".

## Takeaways

- Organizing ideas before writing supports ELs in creating text.
- Organizing is an invisible process.
- Organizing ideas can be modeled for ELs.



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