Organizational Maps

Organizational Maps are useful in the early stages of the writing process as a way to develop your paper’s argument(s) and ideas. A map can also help you to see what information you still need to include and/or gather to develop your draft. Furthermore, the map can help you visualize the organization of your draft. Organizational mapping can be a useful tool in the middle of your writing process, when you know your essay needs development or support, to help fill in gaps.

Compare and Contrast

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>X</th>
<th>Y</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Element #1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element #2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Element #3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Problem / Solution Analysis

Problem

Option #1
Consequences
1a
1b

Option #2
Consequences
2a
2b

Option #3
Consequences
3a
3b

Personal Essay

An event that happened to you

Before the event:
How were you?
What was life like?

During the event:
What happened?
Describe the event.

After the event:
How are things different?
How has your life been affected?

© The George Mason University Writing Center 2016

Last updated 7/13/2016