April 4, 2022 Ross Sundberg McGill Writing Centre

Slides by Sarah Leu, PhD

- Read
- Plan
- Generate
- Draft
- Review

• Read the whole exam

ullet

E.g.:

- 1:00-1:40—Planning questions 1-4
- 1:40-2:00—Writing question 1
- 2:00-2:20—Writing question 2
- 2:20-2:40—Writing question 3
- 2:40-3:30—Writing question 4
- 3:30-4:00—Review/Proofread

- Note down examples, cases, principles, information, etc. relevant to each part of the question
 - Why is it relevant?
- Write your provisional thesi i.e., the short answer to the Q)
- Generate as many "because clauses as you can
 - X is better than Y because.
 - A is not liable for B because

- Outline your response
 - Beginning-middle-end
 - Sub-sections in the middle?
 - Look back at the question and your tentative structure
- Revise your provisional thesis
 - Consider: Add an "although" clause to your provisional thesis?

- Use text from the generating stage if you can
- Add examples, citations to literature, etc.
- Answer your reader's questions
 - Especially: "Why?" and "So what?"
- Make connections b /Lbl 842

- Is your organizational strategy clear?
 - Each section or paragraph is about something
 - Each section or paragraph is doing something
 - Would subheadings help?
- Does information flow from known to new?
- Topic sentences connect ideas between paragraphs?

• As you write, topic sentences help you think through what your paragraph will accomplish

• As you read, topic sentences guide you along and create expectations for what you will be reading and thinking about

The summer had been extremely hot and dry. Many brushfires had broken out. People were told not to water their lawns or wash their cars. People responded by using less water and being careful about how they used water. Everyone realized the new rules were in their best interest. There are many parks to enjoy. Museums and aquariums have interesting exhibits. Large stores and malls have a great selection of things to buy. Many large cities also have major sports teams to watch.

- 1. What is it asking you to do?
- 2. What does your reader want to see?
- 3. What do you need to know or consider?
- 4. What are some different perspectives you should consider?
- 5. How might you organize a response to this question?

6.

- How is the response structured?
 - Outline the response and compare it to your own outline

- Tutorial Service
- Courses
 - Graduate—Graphos
 - Undergraduate
 - Academic writing
 - Academic writing for students who speak English as a 2nd language
 - Take a placement test to get a spot!

https://www.mcgill.ca/mwc/