

SBH SCHOOL TIPS

ORGANISATION IN WRITING

Organisation and planning is particularly important to the child's writing success, allowing for a clear mind and smooth-flowing thought process. In particular, children with difficulties in executive functioning may benefit from the use of strategies for the organisation in writing.

Use of structures and graphic organizer are powerful tools to help children to break down an assessment into smaller steps. It can also help children organise their thoughts in a very visual way.

The use of the structure for writing paragraphs is to help children to:

- ✓ Organise their ideas into a cohesive paragraph.
- ✓ Show the organization or structure of concepts/ideas.
- ✓ Demonstrate in a concrete way how information is related.

SPINA BIFIDA & HYDROCEPHALUS

Research and experience tells us that although the impact of spina bifida and hydrocephalus is very individual, there are some common areas where many people with the neurological implications of spina bifida and or hydrocephalus struggle. One of the most common things we are asked about by both schools and families surround the areas of task initiation and motivation. These skills form part of our Executive Functioning.

Executive skills refer to the higher level cognitive skills that allow us to plan, direct and monitor our thoughts and activities. These functions are localised in the frontal lobe structures of the brain and allow us to participate in goal directed behaviour that is appropriate to the given situation and circumstance. As such, children with spina bifida and hydrocephalus may often experience difficulties with planning and organisation.

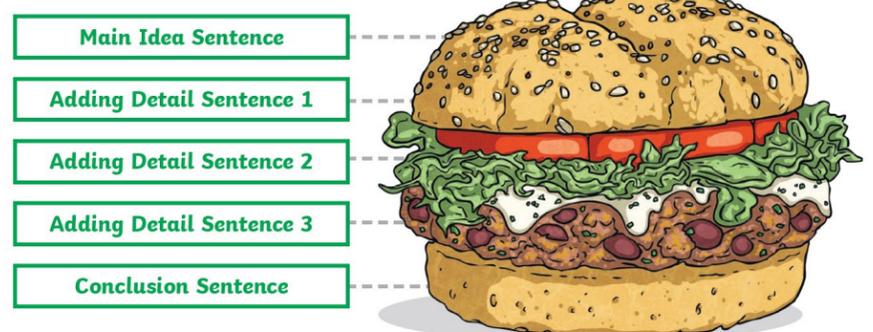
Some students manifest this in their day to day tasks whilst others struggle predominantly in novel or unstructured situations. The child

-  Will often be helped by colour coded books and equipment.
-  May require ample practice.
-  The younger child could use one colour for everything including books, reading folder, pencil case, and bag etc. so that their possessions are easily recognised.

HANDY STRUCTURE FOR SUCCESSFUL WRITING

For younger students (Year 3 to 5), they benefit from "paragraph hamburger" to organise the writing by visually outlining the key components of a paragraph. Topic sentence, detail sentences, and a closing are the main elements of a good paragraph, each one forms a different "piece" of the hamburger.

The "paragraph hamburger" is a writing organizer that visually outlines the key components of a paragraph. Topic sentence, detail sentences, and a closing sentence are the main elements of a good paragraph, and each one forms a different "piece" of the hamburger



For older students (Year 5 to 12), there are many different types of paragraphs, however, one of the most common is the basic or linear paragraph often referred to as the TEEL paragraph structure.

Further evidence and explanation may be added creating a sequence T EE EE EE L rather than just TEEL. In the senior school students may be required to evaluate the evidence that you have used in which case the structure would be T EEE EEE L.

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| T | Topic sentence | Begin with a topic sentence that introduces the point or central argument to be made in the paragraph. The rest of the paragraph will need to stay focused on this point and prove that it is true. |
| E | Explanation | Explain in more detail the statement made in the topic sentence. Clarify and expand on all parts of the topic sentence. |
| E | Evidence | Provide evidence in the form of examples, statistics, quotations and references to primary and secondary sources or other evidence to support each point. |
| L | Link | Write a sentence which links your paragraph back to the main argument (in an extended piece of writing) or back to the main point of the paragraph. |

If you have any questions about the information or activities in this handout, please contact our Education team using the details below.