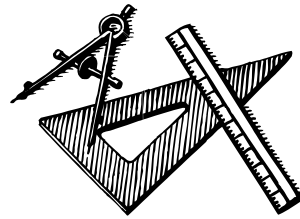




true opinions [...] have only to be awakened by questioning to become knowledge
- Socrates



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- ▶ raise questions
- ▶ draft answers
- ▶ review & improve

∞ The Five Paragraph Method ∞

~ a tool for Academic Writing and Speaking ~

Course aim:

The main aim of this workshop will be to offer the participants tools *to exercise, to get started and to get on* with their academic writing. A selection of simple and common procedures will be presented, that will be highly relevant to the early stages of writing, and to support active rewriting and collaboration. It's a kind of writers gym: to get fit for writing.

With some exercise in this method you will always be able to write a couple of pages in half an hour.

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Art of Communication

~ the ancient aim of public address ~

Success in communication =

when you decide in advance
what the audience remember afterwards

1. Introduction

(well meaning & apt)

2. Three main points to remember

(1 - 2 - 3; clear & consistent)

3. Conclusion

(important & valuable)





= the five paragraph method =

*I know something you can do,
and from now on, you know too:*

1. You can:
 - a. write 5 minutes at full force, on any topic; no excuses - no regrets; you can *freewrite*
 - b. articulate a *topic sentence*
 - c. turn any phrase into a *Question*
2. You can: for any topic
 - a. *name the topic*
 - b. *make 1-2-3 points to develop the topic*
(1. first; 2. second; 3. last, but not least)
 - c. *Conclude or summarize*
3. You can: give and receive review



Let this serve as your base & point of departure.
Now you just need to *exercise*, so you get to
know what you can achieve.

exercise still is the way to mastery



Get on writing

~ a dialectical method ~

Freewriting and idea forming – in 7 steps:

1. Freewriting
2. Topic sentence (the main aim)
3. The Question
4. Alternative questions
5. Review and evaluate
6. Choose
7. Explain



Each step in this exercise set is an independent *turn*; a minor writing strategy – so the entire set is a kind of collapsible pocket tool.

... and then ...

just do it: articulating a main question / problem statement is done in 7 minutes



... a bit about peer review ...

from *sense about science*

A SHORT EXPLANATION OF PEER REVIEW

When a researcher, or team of researchers, finishes a stage of work, they usually write a paper presenting their *methods, findings and conclusions*. They then send the paper to a scientific journal to be considered for publication.

If the journal's editor thinks it is suitable for their journal they send the paper to other scientists who research and publish in the same field asking them to:

- Comment on its *validity* – are the research results credible; are the design and methodology appropriate?
- Judge the *significance* - is it an important finding?
- Determine its *originality* - are the results new? Does the paper refer properly to work done by others?
- Give an opinion as to whether the paper should be *published, improved* or *rejected* (usually to be submitted elsewhere).

This process is called *peer review*. The scientists (*peers*) assessing the papers are called referees or reviewers.

[emphasis added]

(<http://www.senseaboutscience.org.uk/pdf/ShortPeerReviewGuide.pdf>)



The five paragraph sketch

~ to write the next first draft ~

In half an hour or so you will produce 1-2 typed pages – even on a rainy day. And that's a start:

- ✓ Write five sentences;
 - 1 *first*: one to state the issue.
 - 2, 3, 4 *then*: make three more, with points to develop the first; each point one sentence.
 - 5 *and finally*: close it all off with a sentence, to get a responsible grip at the end.
- ✓ And then you expand these sentences into paragraphs, by explaining each sentence.

= a five paragraph sketch, with
a beginning – a middle – and an end

<i>Presentation</i> (Ethos)	<i>Body</i> (Logos)	<i>Conclusion</i> (Pathos)
Prove you are considerate!	Prove you are sensible!	Prove you are responsible!



Five-to-get-going sketch

~ *the Project Note* ~

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1. *What is the **field** you will explore?*

Presentation (brief)

2. *What is your **main question**, and why?*

Problem statement

3. *Which **means of proof** do you need?*

Material

4. *How do you want to **make use of them**?*

Method

5. *What do you hope to **achieve**?*

Conclusion (brief)

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IMRaD

~ *the Scientific Article* ~

This is currently the most influential format for reporting articles in scientific journals. Here it is operationalized by *questions* and brief *freewriting*:

When done with a project, you'll easily answer me:

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✓ Introduction

1. *What did you do?*

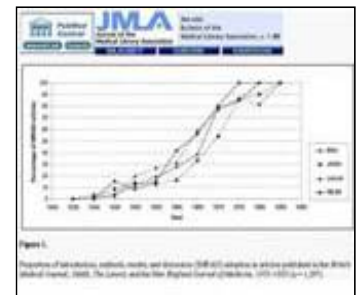
✓ Materials and Methods

2. *What did you use, and how?*

✓ Results

3. *What happened?*

... *and* ...



✓ Discussion

4. *What does the result mean?*

5. *What have others said?*

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