

Where do I start?



The Grammar Brainstorm

The best way to start a brainstorm is by using:

5W + H (WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? WHY? HOW?)

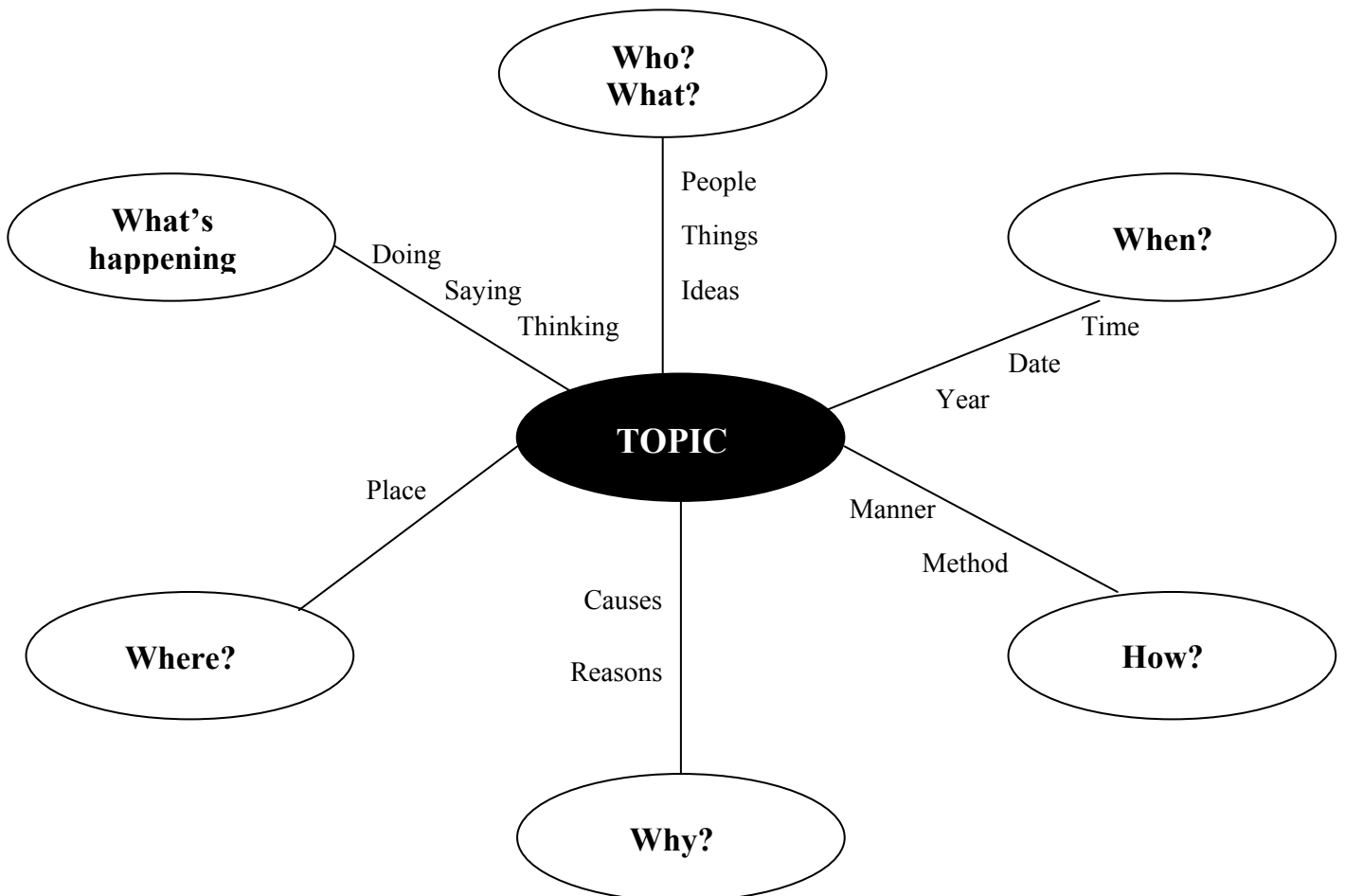
This is a very powerful strategy and can be used in a variety of situations. It can be used at the 'macro level' to ask questions such as 'Who was involved?' What happened? What needs to be done? Where? Why?

It links up with the grammatical functions such as participants (Who? What?), processes (What?) and circumstances (How? When? Where? Why?) which are fundamental to language.

PURPOSE: To gather and organise information by categorising. To give clues to grammatical structure.

METHOD: Pose a question or situation. Stimulate answers using the questions:

WHO? WHAT? WHEN? WHERE? WHY? HOW?



What are you writing about?



If you complete the following table you will find it helps you to structure your subject matter.

| SUBJECT MATTER – WHAT AM I WRITING ABOUT? | | |
|---|--|---|
| Who? & What? | What's Happening? | How, when, where or why? |
| <p>Participants are the people, things and ideas we find in sentences. They can be nouns or pronouns. They are the Who? and What? from the brainstorming activity.</p> | <p>Processes are the verbs. There are several kinds of processes. They are material, verbal, mental and relational.</p> | <p>Circumstances give information about how, when, where or why a process takes place.</p> |
| <p>People/persons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <p>Material (doing)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <p>How? (manner, -ly words)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |
| <p>Things</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <p>Verbal (saying/asking)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <p>When? (time)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |
| <p>Ideas/abstractions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <p>Mental (thinking/wondering)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <p>Where? (place, on..., to...)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |
| | <p>Relational (being & having)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • | <p>Why? (reason)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • |

- When you have brainstormed your ideas you can form clauses and sentences based on the various combinations of participants, processes and circumstances. Remember you can **HOOK** your clauses* (a group of words eg *The player hit the ball.*) together by using conjunctions (see section A above) to form sentences.
- The 5W + H is a very powerful tool in helping you to respond to short answer questions. If in responding to the questions you attempt to include or cover (where possible) the **Who? & What? What's Happening? How, When, Where or Why?** you will find that your answer/response will be more complex or thorough.