

Reading and Writing Assistance

Some of our students in this course may have challenges with reading and writing English. You may be someone who has these difficulties, and we want to try to assist you. These are important skills to help you later find a job, even jobs that are based on manual labor. It is harder for those that have records to find jobs, and having more technical skills is of great benefit to you. We have, however, seen many of our clients go on to higher-level degrees and solid careers. Reading and writing also open up whole new worlds for you whether online, through reading books, through sharing your thoughts or presenting your case or ideas.

It requires a lot of persistence to improve these skills as an adult. We cannot solve them all at once, but if you are interested, we can help you improve. It is tedious to read when you have poor reading skills; the more involved and interested you are in the material, the easier it will be. Try to analyze where you are having issues and, with the help of your tutor, brainstorm solutions and create a learning plan.

Your challenges could include:

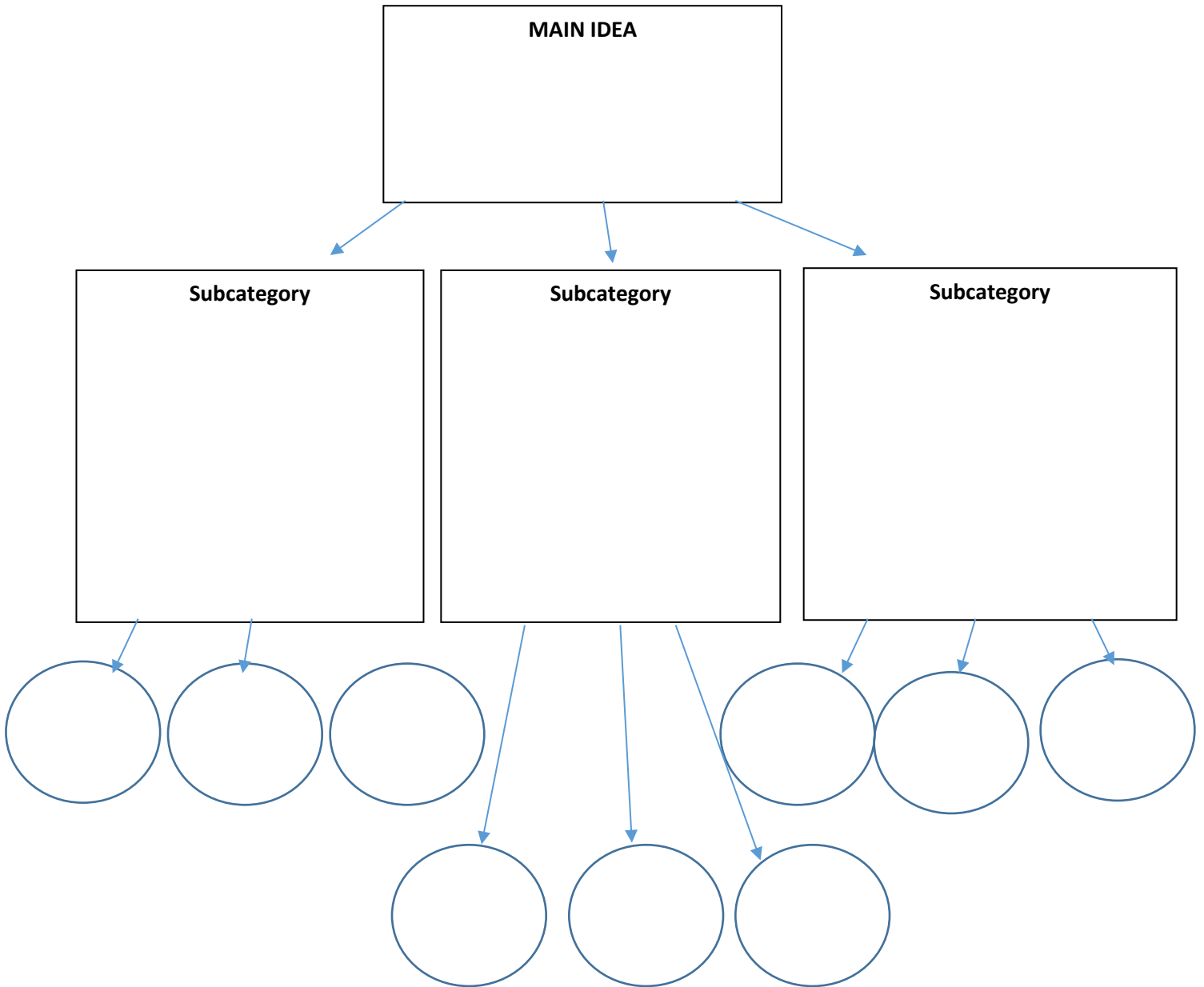
- a) Reading and seeing words correctly
- b) Understanding/comprehending what you have read, especially in academic texts
- c) Organizing the content that you read in a logical structure or making inferences
- d) A lack of vocabulary or English as a second language
- e) Spelling or writing words, sentences or paragraphs
- f) Organizing your thoughts when writing

You may benefit from some of the strategies listed below:

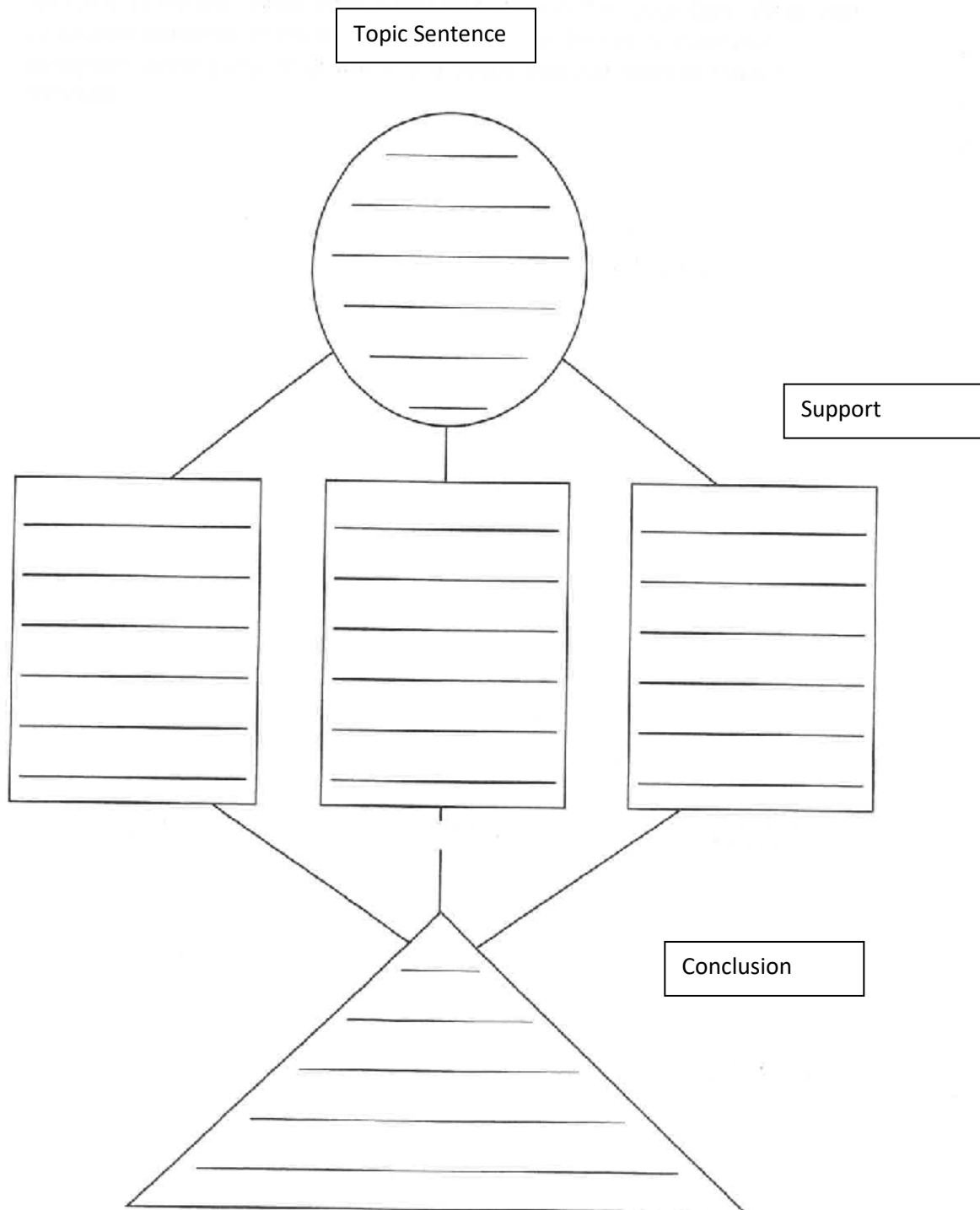
- Read more.
- When you read, stop and check your understanding.
- Use a method of organizing what you read a table, a map, pictures, underline key points or use post-its.
- Ask yourself questions like: Who? What? Where? or what is the author trying to tell me and why? You can make the subtitles in the text into questions. You can create questions for each paragraph you read or on the titles in the reading to help yourself understand better.
- Think out loud. Try to predict.
- After you read, cover what you have read and retell.
- Apply what you read to situations or to yourself.
- You will be asked to write a lot whether sentences or short writing assignments; do your best, write a lot and you will improve. Your facilitator will help you by correcting your assignments. You may want to rewrite the assignments with the corrections so that you learn from your errors.
- When you write a longer essay, try to organize your ideas first in an outline.
- Start by writing clear sentences, then clear paragraphs then clear essays.

Your tutors and facilitators will assist you. They will provide you with tools to help you.

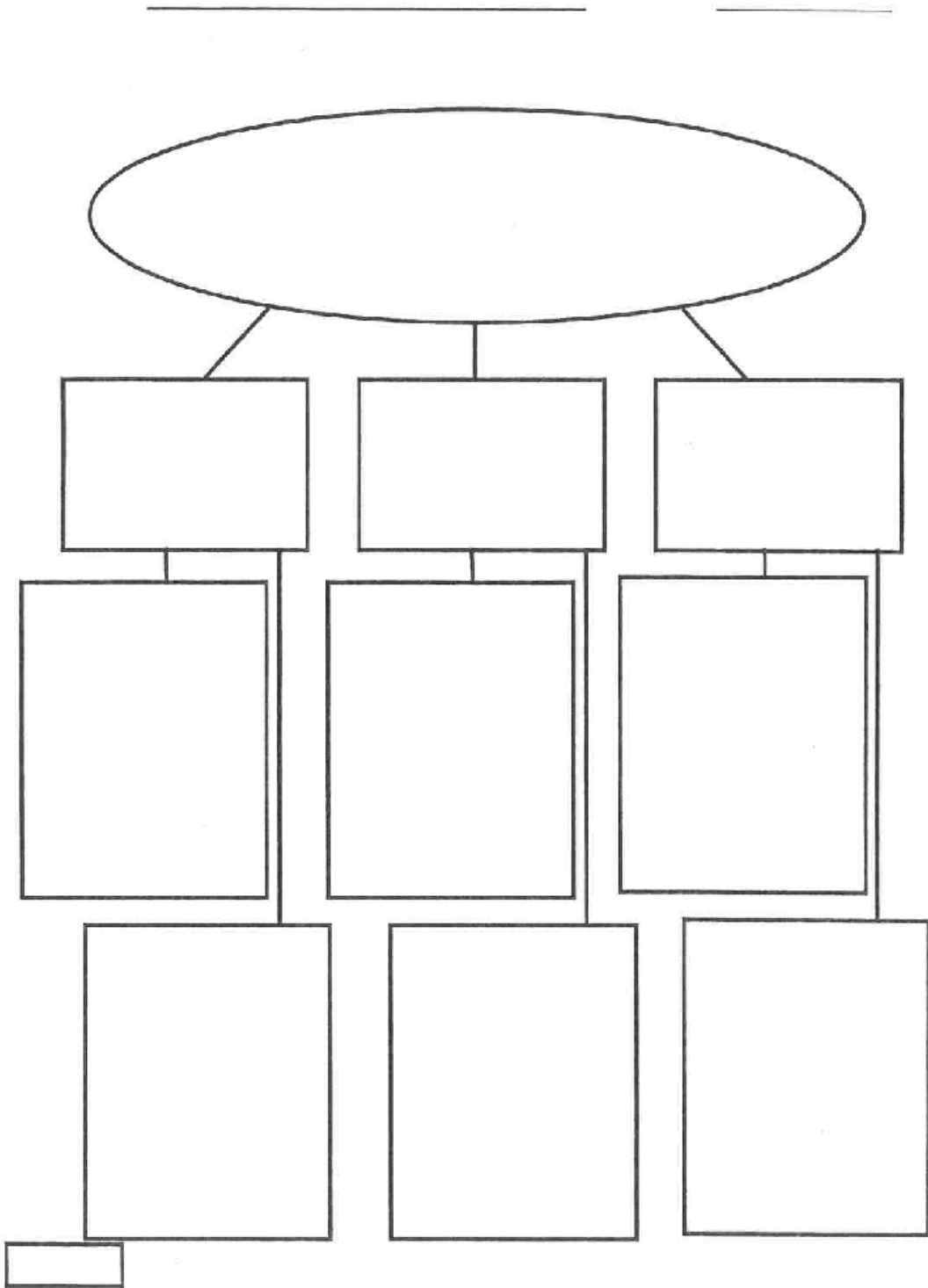
Hierarchical Organizer for Reading



Getting Your Paragraph Organized



Main Idea Map for Writing



Self-Reflection

The course material will give you an opportunity for reflection at a point in your life where you may be reconsidering your choices, trying to find happiness, dealing with the past or seeking understanding or spirituality. This may be a good time to self-reflect, redirect, rethink, discuss with tutors and mentors and try to find joy in your life in difficult circumstances. You may want to keep a diary of your thoughts and personal commitments. You may want to discuss with your mentor or the group. Alternatively, you may just want to hear new ideas. It is your journey, and we will try to assist you.

LEARNING PLAN

Take some time to develop a personal learning plan with your tutor.

What are my objectives? I want to be able to...	What can I do well already? I can...	Where am I having challenges? I am having difficulty with...	What strategies I going to use to improve? I am going to...