

# OREO Strategy with Concept Mapping

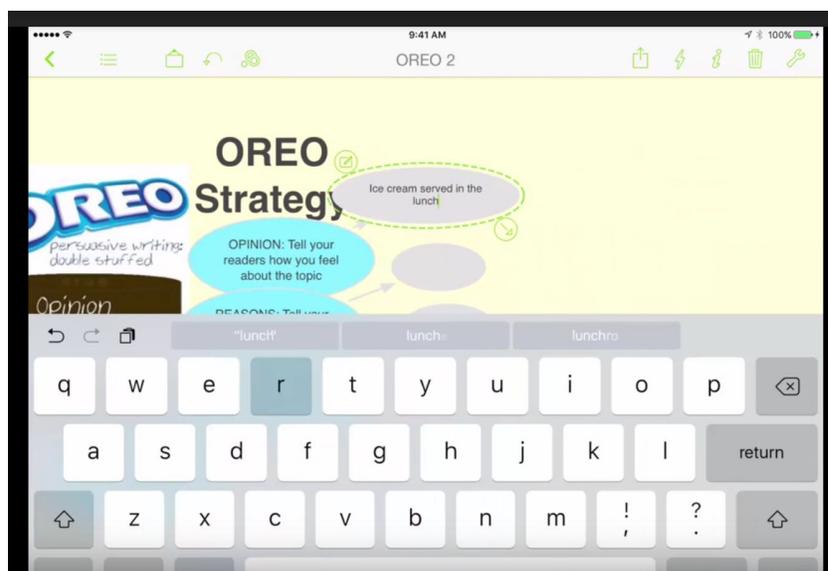


## How to Use the Persuasive OREO Strategy with a Concept Map Tool

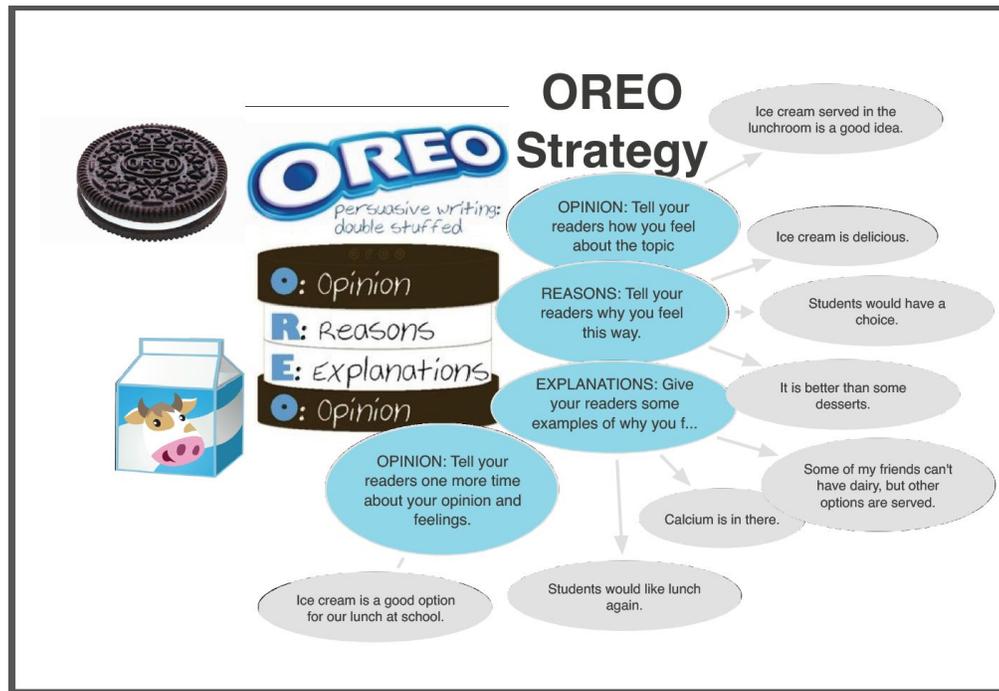
Students can use the OREO strategy with a concept mapping tool to begin writing a persuasive topic. OREO is a strategy for persuasive writing that helps students plan out their essay and have a starting point for their writing. Using the strategy also helps students memorize the critical parts of persuasive writing, keep focused on the argumentative components, organize their ideas for a more effective essay, write a first draft of their essay based on their OREO notes, and monitor themselves throughout the writing task.

OREO is a mnemonic. O stands for Opinion; tell how you feel about the topic. R stands for Reasons; tell your readers why you feel this way. E stands for Explanations; give your readers examples of why you feel this way. O stands for Opinion; tell readers one more time about your opinion and feelings.

One example of a concept map tool is Inspiration Maps. This app and others like it allow students to move around and organize notes on their iPads while seeing the direction of their writing. Here is an OREO template created within Inspiration Maps, yet any concept map tool or app will be valuable. Students can use the template tapping on the shape for each part of the strategy to add notes for their own essay.



Here is an example of a completed map. O is the starting point to state your opinion or claim. Next is R; state the reasons for your claim. If students have trouble coming up with reasons for their claim in the map, then it becomes clear that the claim doesn't hold up to convince readers. Explanations are then added in shapes showing details and evidence to support the opinion. For the final O, students should restate their opinion as a wrap up for the essay. The audience will be satisfied with a conclusion in this restated claim by bringing the essay to a close.



## OREO Strategy

**OPINION:** Tell your readers how you feel about the topic

- I. Ice cream served in the lunchroom is a good idea.

**REASONS:** Tell your readers why you feel this way.

- I. Ice cream is delicious.
- II. Students would have a choice.
- III. It is better than some desserts.

**EXPLANATIONS:** Give your readers some examples of why you feel this way.

- I. Some of my friends can't have dairy, but other options are served.
- II. Calcium is in there.
- III. Students would like lunch again.

**OPINION:** Tell your readers one more time about your opinion and feelings.

- I. Ice cream is a good option for our lunch at school.

Once students have their ideas in the map, they can draft their persuasive essay knowing the critical parts of an argumentative essay are included. Using the OREO strategy with a concept map tool is a good pairing to help students include elements of a well-written persuasive essay in their own writing.