



Four Square Writing: A Powerful Organizational Tool



What is Four Square Writing?

- A visual and kinesthetic aid for organizing your writing
- Helps with prewriting and structuring your ideas
- Useful for all types of writing and grade levels
- Supports organization and word choice
- *What type of writing do you think this strategy could help you with?*

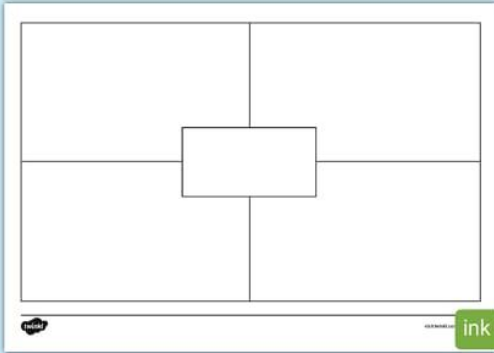


Why Use Four Square Writing?

- Helps you focus your writing
- Provides a clear structure for your ideas
- Enhances your ability to add details
- Improves your word choice
- Can be used independently once learned
- *How do you think having a clear structure could improve your writing?*



Creating Your Four Square



- Draw a large square on your paper
- Divide it into four equal squares
- Leave space in the center for your main idea
- Number the outer squares 1, 2, 3, and 4
- *Can you think of a topic you'd like to write about using this method?*



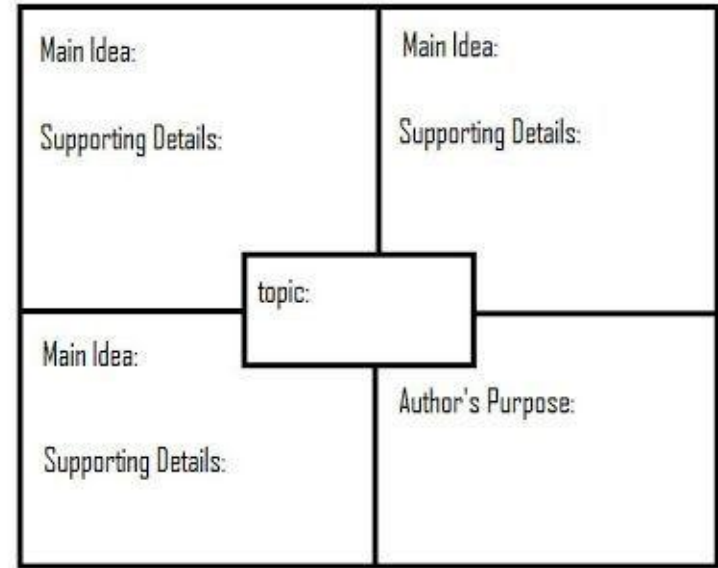
Step 1: Central Idea

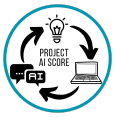
- Write your main topic or idea in the center square
 - This is the core of what you're writing about
- Keep it clear and concise
- *What's an example of a main idea you could use for a paragraph?*



Step 2: Supporting Details

- In squares 1, 2, and 3, write supporting details
 - These should relate directly to your central idea
- Think of examples, reasons, or explanations
- *How many supporting details do you think you need for a strong paragraph?*





Step 3: Elaboration

- Add more specific information to each supporting detail
- Include examples or explanations
 - This helps to flesh out your ideas
- *Why do you think elaboration is important in writing?*



Step 4: Transitions

TRANSITION WORDS	TIME	EMPHASIS	CONTRAST	COMPARE
	First of all	For example	However	Similarly
	The first step	For instance	Although	Equally
	To begin	In fact	Even though	As well as
	To start	In general	Besides	In addition
	Before	Such as	Instead	Furthermore
	Previously	Importantly	Despite	Moreover
	Earlier	Therefore	Nevertheless	In comparison
	Next	Not to mention	Unfortunately	At the same time
	Then	Without a doubt	Whereas	Still
	Also	Undoubtedly	Yet	Likewise
	Now	Understandably	Still	Best of all
	After	Obviously	Unlike	
	When	Especially	Worst of all	
	Again	Definitely	On the other hand	
	During	In particular	On the contrary	
	Soon	Of course	Conversely	
	Since	Don't forget to	Alternatively	
	Eventually	It's best to		
	Immediately	Be careful when		
	Meanwhile	Make sure you	CONCLUSION	Overall
	First		In conclusion	To sum up
	Second		In summary	As you can see
	Third		In the end	As a result
	Last	Did you know	Given these points	Now you know
	At last	Have you ever	In the long run	Now you can
	Finally	Would you	All things considered	You have learned

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- In the bottom right square, square 4, list transition words
- These help connect your ideas smoothly
- Examples: however, in addition, furthermore
- *Can you think of other transition words you could use?*



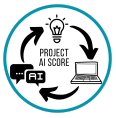
Step 5: From Square to Paragraph

- Use your completed Four Square to write your paragraph
- Start with your main idea (center square)
- Follow with supporting details (squares 1, 2, 3)
- Use transitions to connect your ideas (square 4)
- *How might this method make paragraph writing easier?*



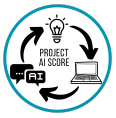
Practice Time!

- Choose a topic you're interested in
- Create your own Four Square organizer
- Fill in each section with your ideas
- Write a paragraph using your Four Square
- *What topic will you choose for your practice?*



Four Square Writing: Beyond Paragraphs

- Use for essays (each square becomes a paragraph)
- Apply to story writing (beginning, middle, end, conclusion)
- Helpful for compare and contrast essays, great for organizing research papers
- *How else could you use the Four Square method in your writing?*



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