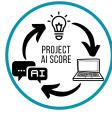


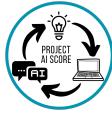


Four Square Writing: A Powerful Organizational Tool



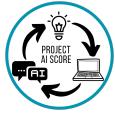
What is Four Square Writing?

- 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?*

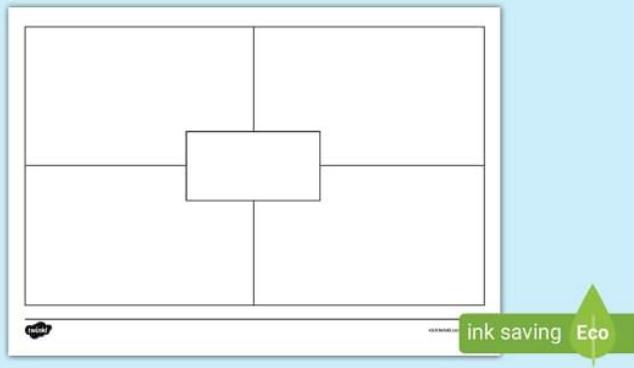


Why Use Four Square Writing?

- 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

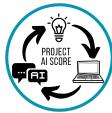


- Draw a large square on your paper
- Divide it into four equal squares
- Leave space in the center for your main idea
- Number the outer squares 1, 2, 3, and 4
- *Can you think of a topic you'd like to write about using this method?*



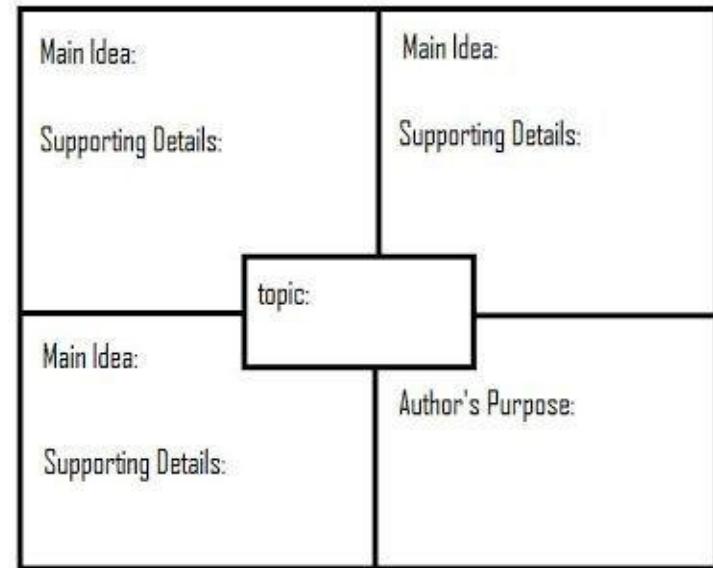
Step 1: Central Idea

- 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

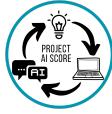
- Add more specific information to each supporting detail
- Include examples or explanations
 - This helps to flesh out your ideas
- *Why do you think elaboration is important in writing?*



Step 4: Transitions

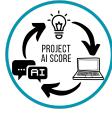
TRANSITION WORDS	TIME	EMPHASIS	CONTRAST	COMPARE	CONCLUSION
First of all	For example	However	Similarly	Overall	In conclusion
The first step	For instance	Although	Equally	To sum up	In summary
To begin	In fact	Even though	As well as	As you can see	In the end
To start	In general	Besides	In addition	As a result	Given these points
Before	Such as	Instead	Furthermore	Now you know	In the long run
Previously	Importantly	Despite	Moreover	Now you can	All things considered
Earlier	Therefore	Nevertheless	In comparison	You have learned	
Next	Not to mention	Unfortunately	At the same time		
Then	Without a doubt	Whereas	Likewise		
Also	Undoubtedly	Yet	Best of all		
Now	Understandably	Still			
After	Obviously	Unlike			
When	Evidently	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				
First					
Second					
Third					
Last					
At last					
Finally					

- 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?*



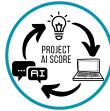
Step 5: From Square to Paragraph

- 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?*



**Interested in learning more?
Check out WritingClassroom.org**