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Academic Writing in  
English:

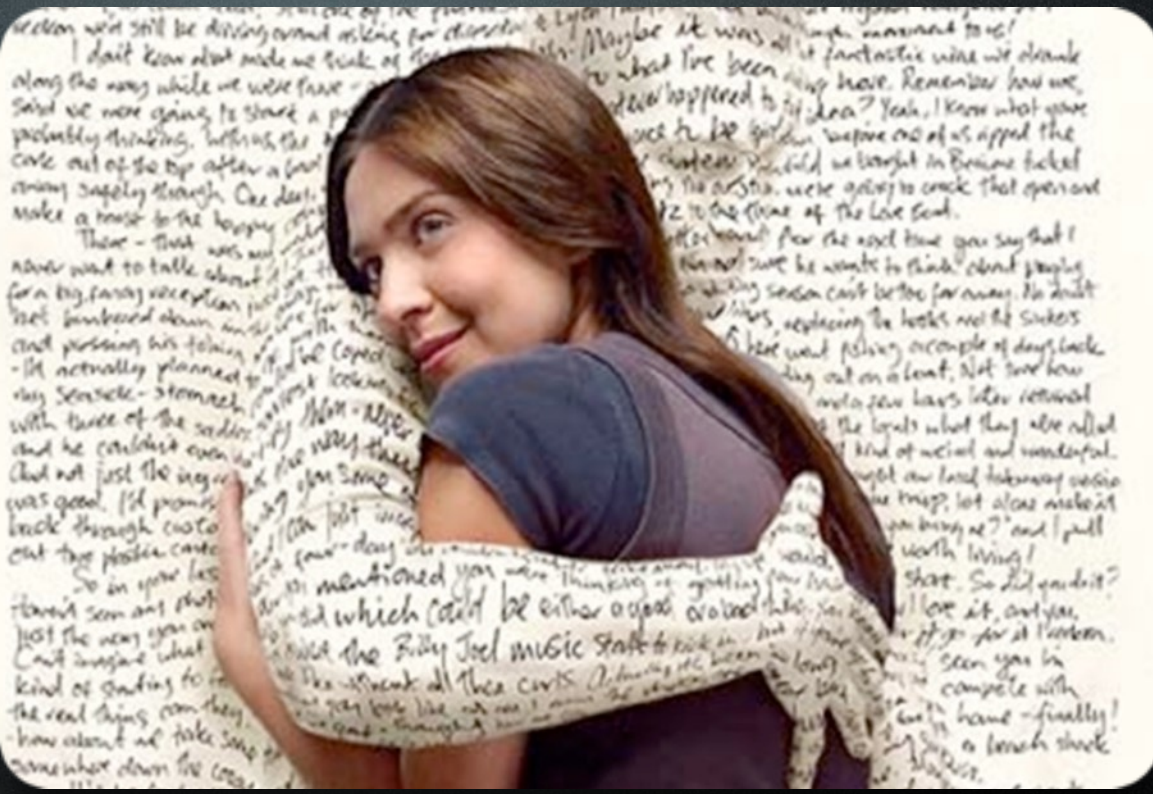
Writing for the Reader

The biggest problem of my PhD study was I was thinking I have to be an excellent chemist. The reality is everybody wants me to be a writer. Everybody asks for writing skills. Unfortunately there is no option to avoid writing, which to me is like a removal of a bad tooth - you have to undergo suffering to save the mouth.

(junior researcher in chemistry)







...section will still be driving around asking for character & lyrics. Maybe it was all...  
I don't know what made me think of...  
along the way while we were there...  
said we were going to share a...  
probably thinking, before the...  
came out of the top after a...  
coming safely through. One death...  
make a noise to the...  
There - that was...  
never want to talk about...  
from big fancy reception...  
not bothered about...  
and passing his...  
- it's actually planned to...  
my... - stomach...  
with three of the...  
and he couldn't even...  
that not just the...  
was good. I'd promise...  
back through...  
out the...  
So in your...  
haven't seen any...  
just the way you...  
Can't imagine what...  
kind of...  
the real things...  
- how about...  
somewhere down the...

...fantastic wine we...  
... Remember how we...  
...? Yeah, I know what you...  
... we've...  
... we bought in...  
... were going to...  
... of the Love...  
... for the...  
... he wants to...  
... season can't be...  
... replacing the...  
... here went...  
... out on a...  
... into a few...  
... the...  
... kind of...  
... most...  
... the...  
... "and I...  
... worth...  
... short. So...  
... I love...  
... for...  
... seen you...  
... compete...  
... home...  
... a...  
... shock...





Publish and Flourish



# Overview

- 1) norms and cultures
- 2) writing abstracts
- 3) the writing process





Writing goes beyond  
language: norms and  
cultures



# Cultures have their own intellectual writing styles

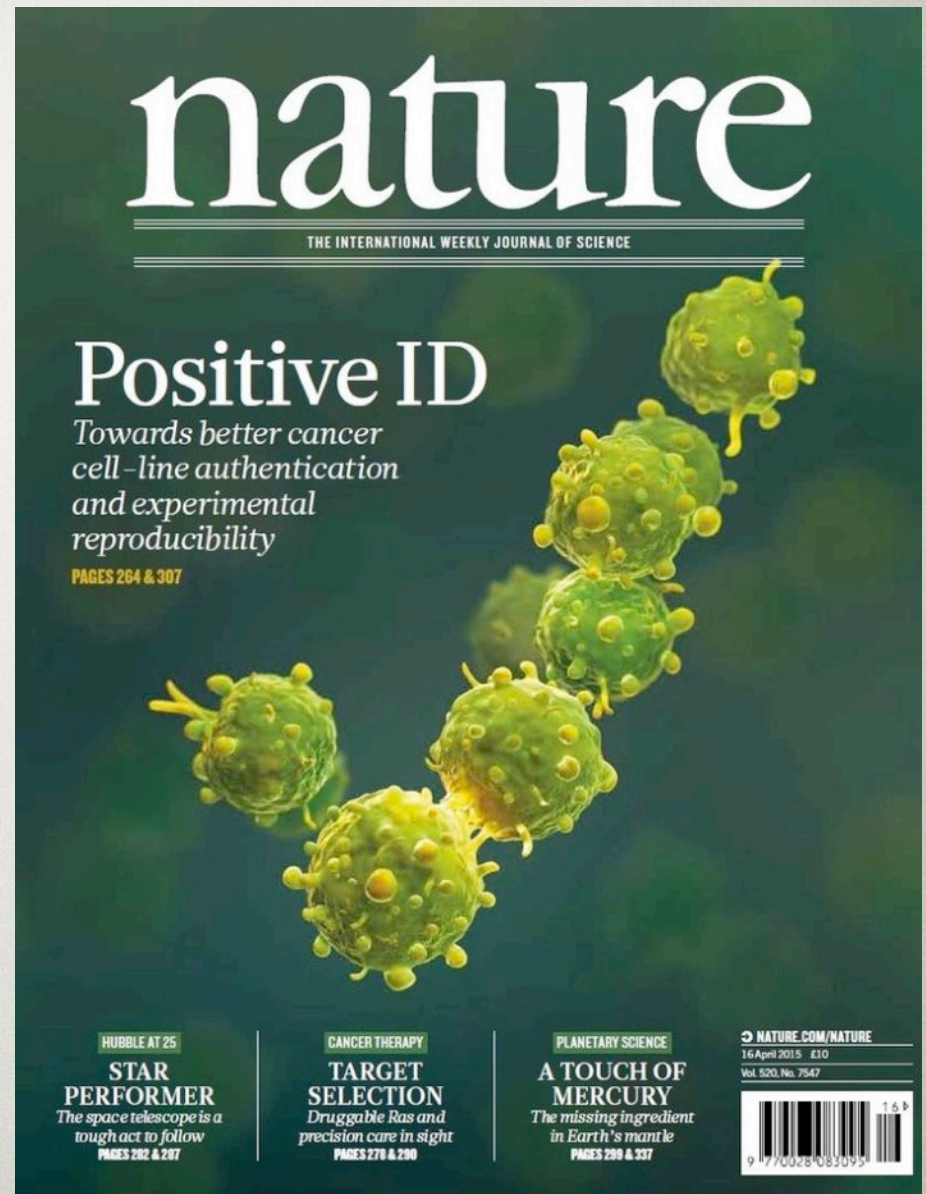
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- Saxonnic  
(Anglo-American)
- Teutonic  
(Continental )
- Gallic
- Nipponic



Anglo-  
American  
writing  
culture  
**dominates**  
the discourse





	<b>Continental European culture</b>	<b>Anglo-American culture</b>
<b>Relationship Writer -- Reader</b>	<b>Reader</b> responsibility	<b>Writer</b> responsibility
<b>Overall coherence</b>	Implicit	Explicit
<b>Text/paragraph structure</b>	No unified model Bottom-up Spiral like	Predictable patterns (rhetorical moves) Topic sentences Top-down Linear
<b>Authorial self-reference</b>	Fewer personal statements; more impersonal constructions	More personal statements (I/we)



	<b>Continental European culture</b>	<b>Anglo-American culture</b>
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# The culture of writing research articles

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Title

Abstract





# Abstracts

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- planning tools for the whole text (mini-texts)
- stand-alone screening devices



**WORK  
AHEAD**

Activity 1



Assessing the quality of an abstract



Activity 2



# Stating a research problem

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- What is the study about?
- What research problem does it intend to solve?
- Who will benefit from the project?

# Problem statement (humanities)

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The practical non-claimability of this right restricts possible legal ways how the Czech citizens may participate in protecting and defending "their" environment.



# Problem statement (medicine)

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Although this examination includes energy parameters such as glucose and lactate concentrations, it does not commonly use Coefficient of Energy Balance (CEB).

A large, hand-painted red heart is centered on a white background. The heart is filled with a vibrant red color and shows visible brushstrokes, giving it a textured, artistic appearance. In the center of the heart, the text "What is a Research Problem?" is written in a bold, black, serif font. The text is arranged in two lines: "What is a Research" on the top line and "Problem?" on the bottom line. The entire composition is framed by a thin black border.

**What is a Research  
Problem?**



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Research problem is **a condition that needs to be solved** and implies the **possibility of empirical investigation.**

# Look for...

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- tensions
- contradictions
- gaps
- unexplained issues
- puzzles





# Examples:

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- Source supports a claim with old evidence, **BUT** you offer new evidence.
- Source analyzes X using theory Y, **BUT** you can analyze it from a different point of view.
- Source claims that....., **BUT** it is not.



Research as detective work  
or as lawyer's work?



# What is NOT a research problem:

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- A research topic...
- How to do something...
- A value question...
- A vague or too broad a proposition...

# Which of the following is phrased as a research problem?

---

The purpose of the study is to determine:

- A. the truth of the proposition that American education has encouraged an elite class in the United States
- B. how students can overcome text anxiety
- C. if there is a difference in the mean gain scores in reading achievement between students taught word attack skills and those taught comprehensive skills



# Which of the following is phrased as a research problem?

---

The purpose of the study is to determine:

- A. the truth of the proposition that American education has encouraged an elite class in the United States
- B. how students can overcome text anxiety
- C. **if there is a difference in the mean gain scores in reading achievement between students taught word attack skills and those taught comprehensive skills**





**Research  
problem**





# What matters in a research article

The primary objective of a research article is to communicate new information quickly. Therefore, its two essential qualities are **novelty** and **the ability to communicate results**. Although this definition may seem obvious, in the course of my work as an editor, I have observed that not only do more than half the articles I see fail to communicate their results, almost none of them clearly explain their novelty!

Eric Leichtfouse (2013) Scientific Writing for Impact Factor Journals, p. 13



Activity 3: What is your  
research problem?





# Activity 4: Structure of Abstracts



# Abstract

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1. Background/ Problem
2. Present research/ Purpose (answer to the problem)
3. Methods/ Subjects
4. Results/ Findings
5. Discussion/ Conclusion/ Implications



(1) Urgent examination of cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) provides immediate important information about the character of central nervous system (CNS) impairment. (2) Although this examination includes energy parameters such as glucose and lactate concentrations, it does not commonly use Coefficient of Energy Balance (CEB). (3) In this study, we focused on CEB because it enables more exact assessment of actual energy state in the CSF compartment than glucose and lactate alone. (4) CEB informs about the actual functioning condition of present cells, and it does not require any other analysis or costs. (5) Using Kruskal-Wallis ANOVA, we examined a large CSF sample (N = 8183) and we compared CEB values among groups with different cytological syndromes. (6) We found a statistically significant difference of CEB between the group with granulocyte pleocytosis and the control group. (7) These results indicate a high degree of anaerobic metabolism caused by the oxidative burst of neutrophils. (8) Similarly, we found a statistically significant difference of CEB between the control group and groups with tumorous oligocytosis plus pleocytosis and monocyte pleocytosis. (9) This difference can be attributed to the oxidative burst of macrophages. (10) Our findings suggest that CEB combined with CSF cytology has a great importance for diagnosis, differential diagnosis, and early therapy of CNS diseases.

The human right to a favorable environment, incorporated in the Czech Constitution in 1993, suffers serious insufficiencies based on legislative and interpretative reasons that discourage its successful implementation. The practical non-claimability of this right restricts possible legal ways how the Czech citizens may participate in protecting and defending “their” environment. The proposed project aims at formulating concrete changes in implementing legislation and in interpretation of the right to a favorable environment in the Czech Republic that would turn this constitutional tool into a living legal instrument applicable in judicial proceedings. To that purpose, the applicant of the project intends to learn from positive experience of those European countries that show successful results in litigating the right to environment, compare their way of enacting the right in legislation and of interpreting it in courts, and propose legal paths to bring the inefficient right to life.





# Activity 5: Common problems





## Activity 6: Titles



# Examining the title

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Biochemical Parameters of Energy  
Metabolism in Cerebrospinal Fluid at  
Defined Cytological Syndromes

vs.

Coefficient of Energy Balance: Effective  
Tool for Early Differential Diagnosis of  
CNS Diseases

# Use titles to attract readers





# A strong title is:

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- Clear
- Complete
- Compact

# Clear Titles

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Tradition and Spread of AIDS in Malawi

Risky Traditional Practices Associated with  
the Spread of HIV/AIDS in Malawi: Pregnant  
Women in the Blantyre and Lilongwe Districts



# Clear titles

---

Involvement of amygdala in the  
oxotremorine memory enhancing effect

Involvement of amygdala in memory  
enhancement by oxotremorine

# Clear and catchy titles

---

Methodological and Practical  
Considerations in the Conduct of a  
Confidential National Enquiry on Child  
Mortality: A Feasibility Study

vs.

Why Children Die: A Pilot Study



# Complete titles

---

Improved survival in homozygous  
sickle cell disease: lessons from a cohort  
study

# Compact titles

---

A Study into the Relationship between  
the Number of Times a Queen Bee Mates  
and Disease within Honeybee Colony

Multiple Mating by Queen Bee Lowers  
Disease within Honeybee Colony



# Compact can also be catchy

Multiple Mating by Queen Bee Lowers  
Disease within Honeybee Colony

Queen Promiscuity Lowers Disease  
within Honeybee Colonies

# Titles: Language Tips

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- Do not be afraid to use verbs
- Do not stack nouns
- Delete trivial phrases such as “Notes on” or “A study of”
- Look at inspiring titles in the journal where you want to publish





# The Writing Process

# Start early and write to think

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~~idea ---> do research ---> write~~

idea ---> write ---> do research



*One Art*  
by Elizabeth Bishop

*The art of losing isn't hard to master  
so many things seem filled with the desire  
to be lost that their loss is no disaster.*

*Lose something every day. Accept it  
of lost door keys, the hour badly spent.  
The art of losing isn't hard to master.*

*Then practice losing farther, losing faster:  
places, and names, and where it was you meant  
to travel. None of these will bring disaster.*



**Elizabeth Bishop  
(1911-1979)**

Writing through revising





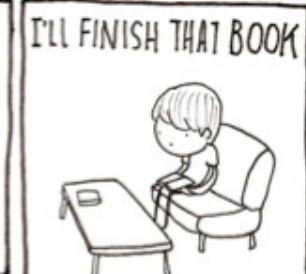


Procrastination



# PRODUCTIVE PROCRASTINATION

BY LAUREN PURJE.





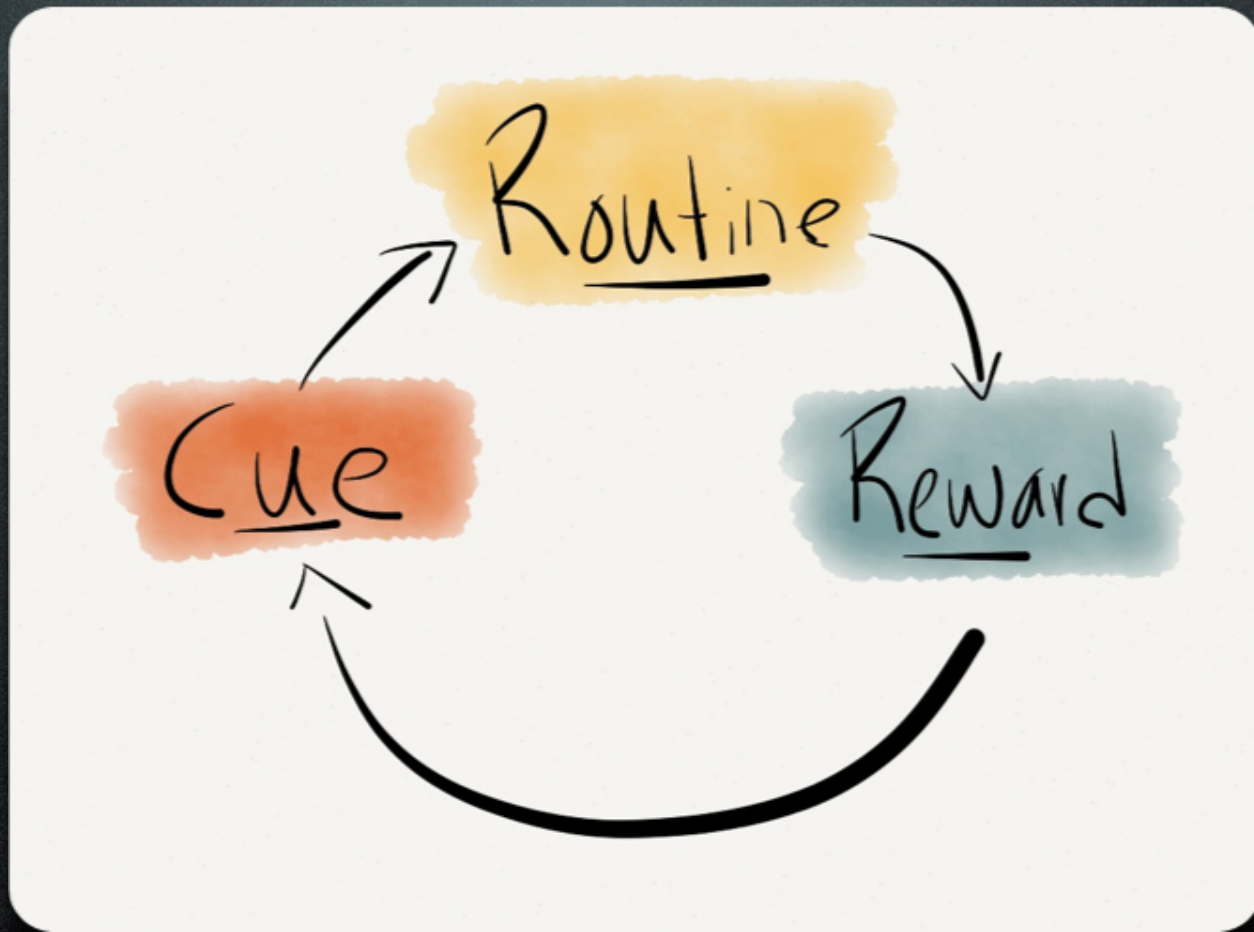






Get a Glue...





Create a Writing Habit





# Deal with the Writer's Block



# Free Writing





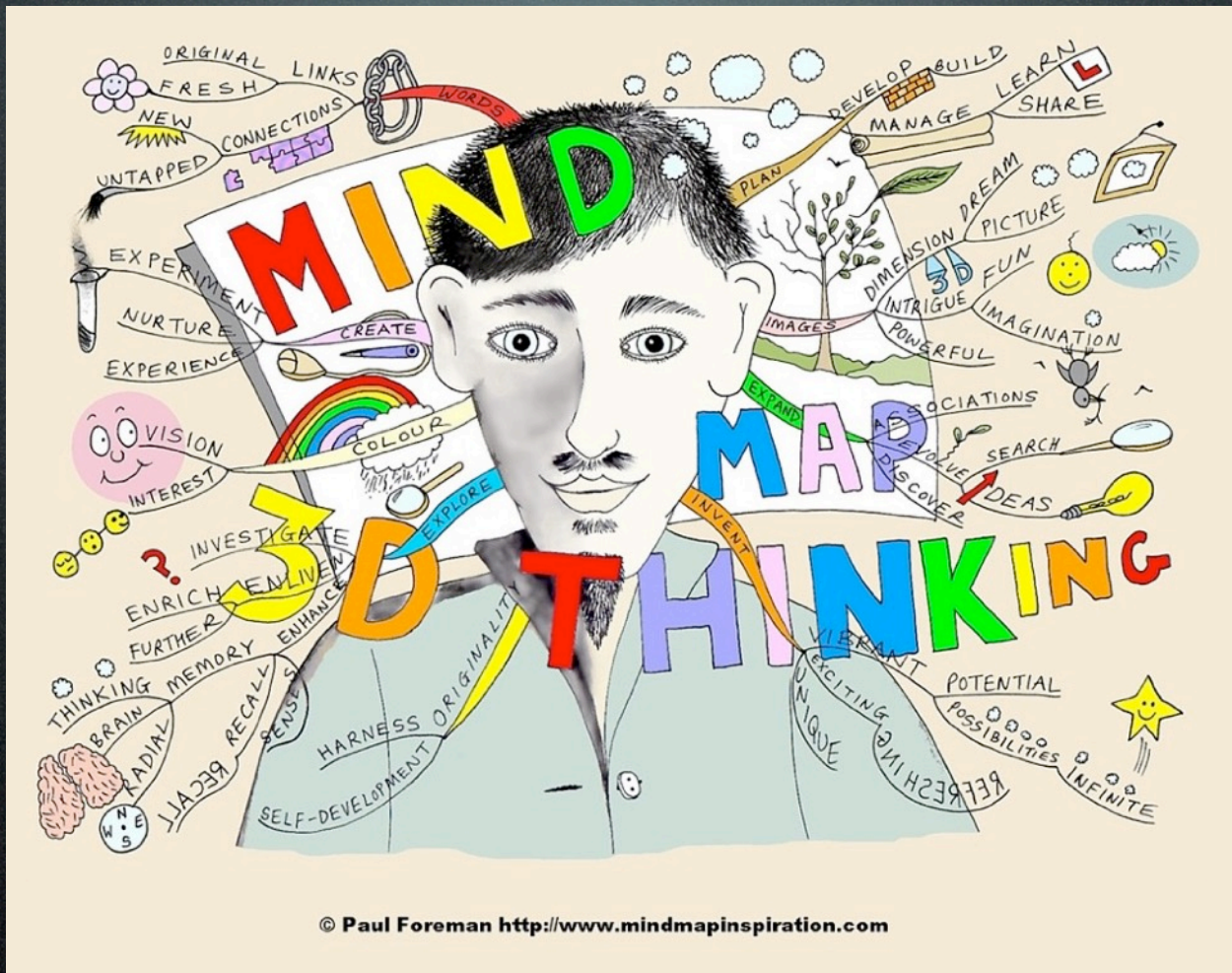


The pomodoro technique



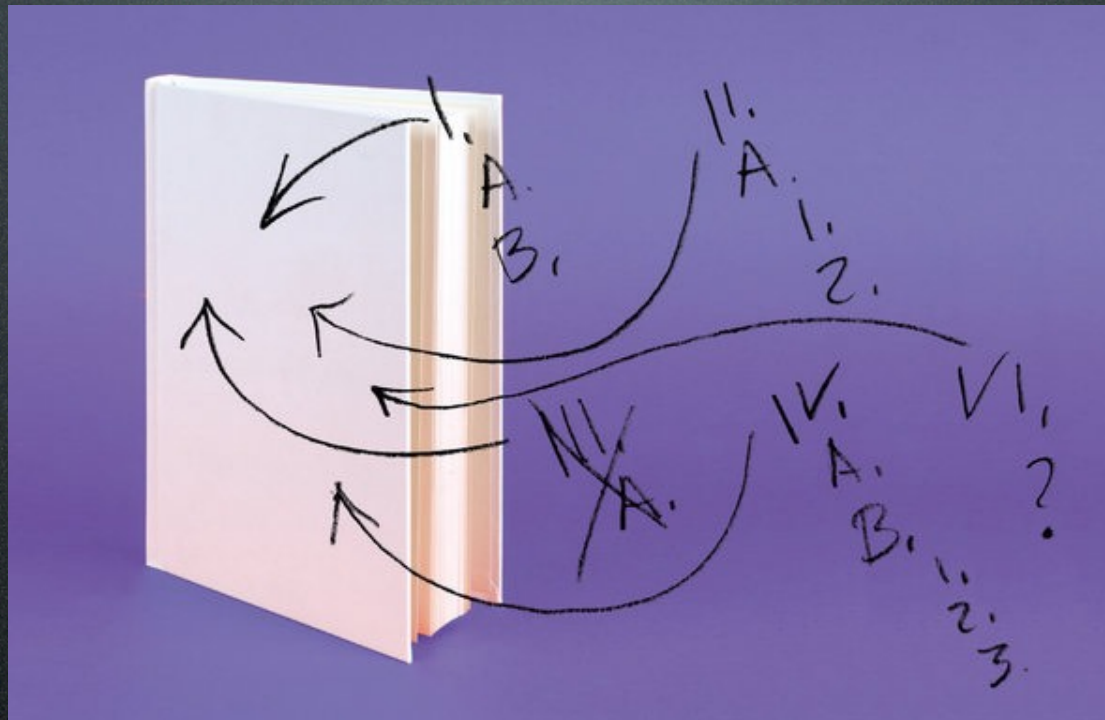






# Mind maps





# Outlines





Is writing an Art or Craft?





Wrapping up...



# Overview

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# Thank You!

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