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Darren Schreiber's Seven Steps for Powerful Paper Writing

1. **Brain storm**

Gather all the things you know about the question
Use each of the epistemological tools
Do **not** disregard ideas at this step!

2. **Categorize**

How can each of the pieces of knowledge be grouped?
What questions or new ideas do these groupings suggest?

3. **Critique**

What are the strengths and limitations of each category or argument?
What are the advantages/disadvantages of each?
What would be the criticisms leveled by other perspectives?

4. **Order**

What order could we put each of the groups into?
Temporal, logical, inductive, deductive, strength, weakness

5. **Outline**

Introduction

Tell the reader what the question you are addressing is and what main points you will be making. **Signpost**

Body

Break your analysis into three to five main points.
Explain and critique each main point

Conclusion

Tell your reader what the question you addressed was and what main points you made.

6. **Write**

Turn your ideas into sentences and paragraphs.
Sentences should average ten words in length.
Paragraphs should range from three to five sentences
Write in the active voice.

7. **Edit**

“Powerful papers are not written. They are rewritten.”
Check spelling
Check grammar
Cut everything not essential to the paper.
Create smooth transitions from idea to idea.

Human short-term memory contains space for about seven items. We can expand this memory by structuring our writing for the reader.

Bibliography

Mary Field Belenky, et al. Women's Ways of Knowing. 1986. (\$11.90)
Annie Dillard. The Writing Life. 1990. (\$8.80)
William Strunk, E. B. White. The Elements of Style. 1995. (\$4.76)