

The CPA Chart

<p>MAIN IDEA <i>The one most important thing you want your audience to know.</i></p>	<p>KEY DETAILS <i>Significant information and examples that support your main idea.</i></p>
<p>THINK <i>What you want your audience to think when they're done reading.</i></p>	<p>DO <i>What you want your audience to do when they're done reading.</i></p>
<p>PEOPLE <i>The particular person or group of people you are writing to.</i></p>	<p>QUESTIONS <i>The things your audience will want to know about your topic.</i></p>

Example

<p>MAIN IDEA The one most important thing you want your audience to know.</p> <p>The times in my life as a kid when I felt closest to my dad were the times when we would go fishing together.</p>	<p>KEY DETAILS Significant information and examples that support your main idea.</p> <p>We would often get up early on Saturday or Sunday mornings and go to Green Lake together.</p> <p>The time my dad talked me into going fishing when he knew they had just stocked the lake.</p> <p>My dad seemed really happy when we were fishing together.</p>
<p>THINK What you want your audience to think when they're done reading.</p> <p>More than anything else you do for your children, it's the time you spend with them that they will remember forever and value most.</p>	<p>DO What you want your audience to do when they're done reading.</p> <p>Try to find more time to do things with your kids. If possible, see if you can come up with things you can do on a regular basis so your kids will always know they can count on having this time with you.</p>
<p>PEOPLE The particular person or group of people you are writing to.</p> <p>Parents with young children</p>	<p>QUESTIONS The things your audience will want to know about your topic.</p> <p>What was it about fishing with my dad that made it so important to me?</p> <p>What was one of the best times I ever had fishing with my dad?</p> <p>Why was fishing better than other things we did together?</p> <p>Do I still go fishing with my dad now that I'm grown up?</p>

Using CPA for Research Writing

Research paper pre-write: Here's some pre-writing for a report on George Washington. In this case, some research has to be done before this chart can be filled out.

<p>MAIN IDEA The one most important thing you want your audience to know.</p> <p>George Washington was a reluctant hero. He would rather have been a farmer and a family man than a great general or the President.</p>	<p>KEY DETAILS Significant information and examples that support your main idea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • He lost most of the battles he fought. • He didn't really want to be President. • His favorite thing to do was to work on his farm. • He missed his family and didn't like being away from them.
<p>THINK What you want your audience to think when they're done reading.</p> <p>The great heroes of American history are often a lot more like regular people than how they are portrayed in school and in the movies.</p>	<p>DO What you want your audience to do when they're done reading.</p> <p>Think carefully about the way books and movies portray American heroes. Study the whole person, not just their reputation.</p>
<p>PEOPLE The particular person or group of people you are writing to.</p> <p>Kids in middle school and junior high who are studying American history</p>	<p>QUESTIONS The things your audience will want to know about your topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How did Washington get to be President? • Why didn't he want to be President? • What did he say about his family life and working on his plantation? • What did Washington care about most? • Why don't we usually learn about the personal side of George Washington?

Using CPA to Respond to Prompts

A typical prompt from a test: On the previous pages you read a story about how people get along in a family. Write an essay that explains how you get along with the people in your family.

<p>MAIN IDEA The one most important thing you want your audience to know.</p> <p>In order to get along in a family, everyone has to make compromises and consider how the other people feel.</p>	<p>KEY DETAILS Significant information and examples that support your main idea.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We rotate chores so no one has to do the worst jobs all the time. • We take turns on the computer and with the TV remote. • We try to be considerate about respecting each other's privacy. • When we have disagreements we try to settle them without arguing or fighting.
<p>THINK What you want your audience to think when they're done reading.</p> <p>Making compromises isn't so bad when everyone has to do it. In fact, sometimes it makes our family feel closer because each of us is giving up something so that someone else can have what they want.</p>	<p>DO What you want your audience to do when they're done reading.</p> <p>Be kind and generous with the people in your family. Don't be the person who always has to have things his way.</p>
<p>PEOPLE The particular person or group of people you are writing to.</p> <p>Kids who are growing up in large families.</p>	<p>QUESTIONS The things your audience will want to know about your topic.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What's the secret to getting along in a big family? • How do you share things so that no one feels bad? • What's the biggest problem you've ever had and how did you fix it? • What do you do when you get angry with each other?