



Planning an In-Class Composition



- ✓ **Practice** writing a composition without the use of a dictionary, or without discussing it with a classmate. If you can't think of a word in English, try to 'write around the word', or use words you do know.
- ✓ **Visit a Learning Centre tutor** with a composition you have written and ask specific questions about your writing.
- ✓ Take some time at the beginning of your in-class composition to **plan** what you are going to write. This could be an **outline** or a mind map. **Who** or **what** is this going to be about? What are you going to say about this person, thing, event or idea? (**main idea**)
- ✓ **Double-space** your writing for clarity, ease of editing and ease of marking.
- ✓ Don't write a rough copy. There is not enough time.
- ✓ Leave enough time to **review** and **edit** your work.
- ✓ Ask yourself the following questions when you have finished writing:
 - Is there an **introduction**? Even if you are writing one paragraph, there should be an introductory sentence.
 - Is there a **conclusion**? Even if you are writing one paragraph, there should be a concluding sentence.
 - Is there a **topic sentence** for each paragraph?
 - Are there enough **details** or **examples** that support your topic sentence(s)?
 - Have you provided enough **background information** for your composition to be complete?
 - Can you add any interesting **adjectives** or **adverbs** to your writing that would improve the overall quality and add interest to your composition?
 - Is there **sentence variety** in your writing? (simple, compound and complex)

If you don't understand any of these bolded words, **ask a Learning Centre tutor!**

