

Planning Your Composition

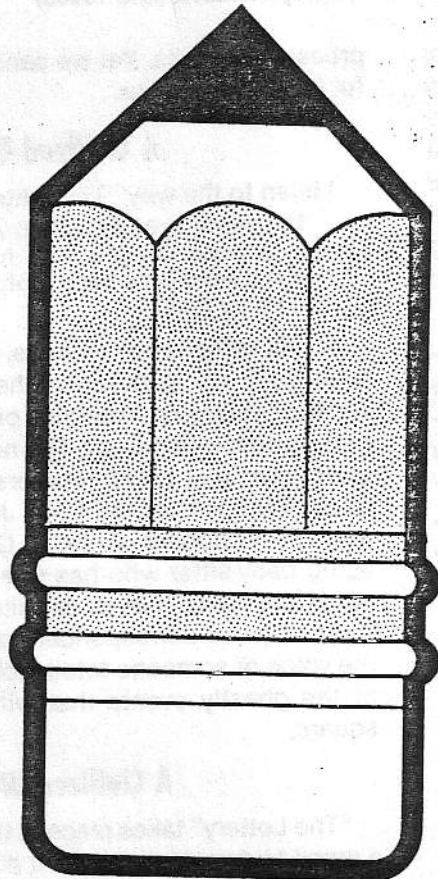
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After you have limited your subject (see "Write Away" in the September and October issues), you should design a plan for your composition.

If you are writing a research paper, you may construct a detailed formal outline. For an essay, you may choose to make a simple list showing the high points you intend to cover.

Each writer has his or her own way of passing through this stage of the writing process. Some make elaborate diagrams; others may scribble notes. But few writers avoid planning.

For each item below, write a precise statement that expresses your opinion. (Do you agree? Disagree?) Next, compose a brief list for each statement, suggesting how you might develop the statement into an essay.



- 1) What we learn outside of school is more valuable than what we learn inside.
- 2) Football is more exciting than basketball.
- 3) Boys are more sensitive than girls.
- 4) High school girls worry too much about fashions.
- 5) Schools overemphasize athletics.
- 6) Dessert is overrated.
- 7) No one understands the stock market.
- 8) Dating habits have changed.
- 9) Computer video games have educational value.
- 10) People worry too much about physical fitness.