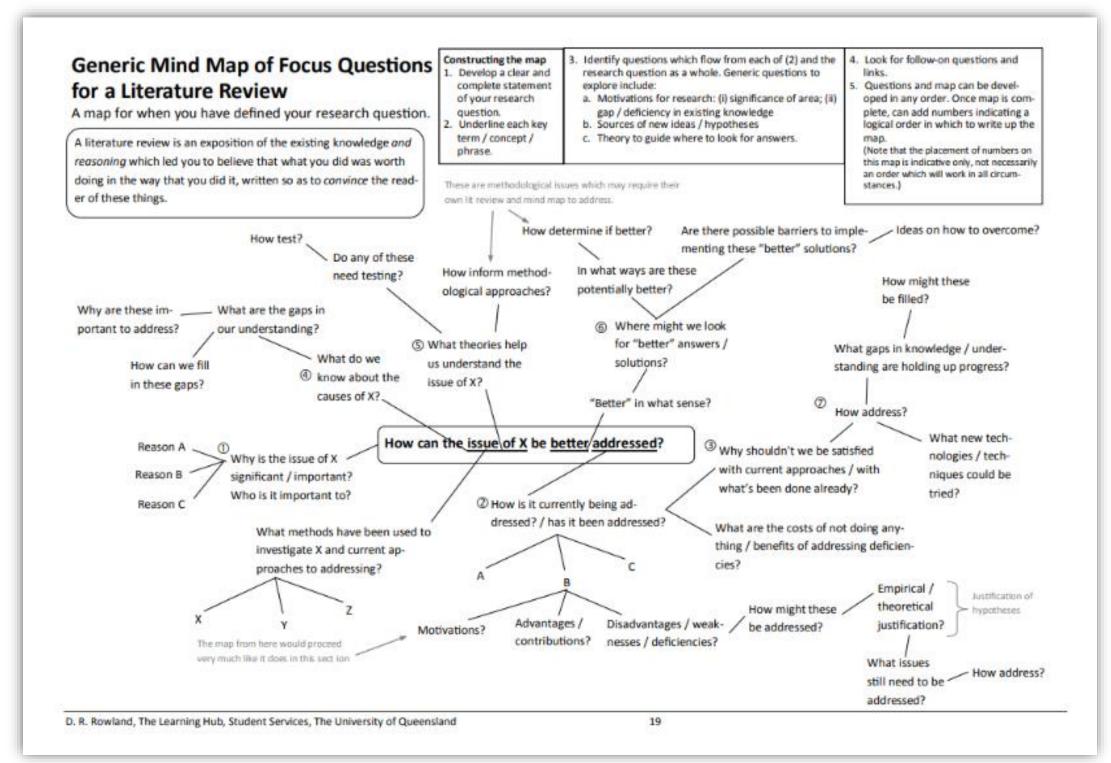# Advanced Human-Computer Interaction
Topic 3: Writing Effectively

Tracy Maniapoto

Mind Mapping

A strategy used to brainstorm a topic using a note-taking method

Five step process:

1. Write down our research question or topic

2. Underline keywords and concepts

3. Identify questions that flow from the keywords and question

4. Look for follow up questions and connections

5. Think about sequencing or ordering your ideas

Generic Mind Map of Focus Questions for a Literature Review

A map for when you have defined your research question.

A literature review is an exposition of the existing knowledge *and reasoning* which led you to believe that what you did was worth doing in the way that you did it, written so as to *convince* the reader of these things.

Constructing the map
1. Develop a clear and complete statement of your research question.
2. Underline each key term / concept / phrase.
3. Identify questions which flow from each of (2) and the research question as a whole. Generic questions to explore include:
   a. Motivations for research: (i) significance of area; (ii) gap / deficiency in existing knowledge
   b. Sources of new ideas / hypotheses
   c. Theory to guide where to look for answers.
4. Look for follow-on questions and links.
5. Questions and map can be developed in any order. Once map is complete, can add numbers indicating a logical order in which to write up the map.
(Note that the placement of numbers on this map is indicative only, not necessarily an order which will work in all circumstances.)

D. R. Rowland, The Learning Hub, Student Services, The University of Queensland   19

Matrix / Table

A strategy that helps determine alignment between research papers against a set of defined criteria

Themes in research about PhD students	Humbug et al (2009)	Mewburn (2012)	Whathisname (2013)
Reasons for undertaking a higher degree	Argues that this varies by discipline	Argues that there is a clear gender division in the discipline enrolments - but older people less so.	Doesn't mention this – many people don't actually. Is this a problem with the literature?
Completion rates	Shows that men drop out more than women in almost all disciplines.	Shows that older people who are enrolled part time are more persistent than those who enrol part time.	Shows that attrition varies by institution and that the 'richer' institutions lose less students.
Social learning in PhD student communities	Doesn't mention this	Shows examples of conversations to show that older people have more complex discussions about 'meta' issues in PhD study than younger students	Suggests the community in richer institutions is better than that in poorer institutions.
Relationships with supervisor - how important is it?	Argues that the relationship with supervisor is a key determinant of success	Argues that older people deal with poor supervision better than younger people	Suggests that poorer institutions have a 'younger' supervisor profile

"**Does supervision play a role in PhD student attrition**? There is no clear evidence one way or the other, although many scholars claim it is crucial. Humbug et al (2009), who surveyed students about their PhD experience, argues that the relationship with the supervisor is a key determinant in the decision to leave PhD study, whereas Mewburn (2012) argues that older students are better able to deal with poor supervision. The culture of supervision in a faculty or Academic Unit and even its wealth (Whathisname, 2013) might impact on the attrition patterns of PhD students."

Sentence Skeletons

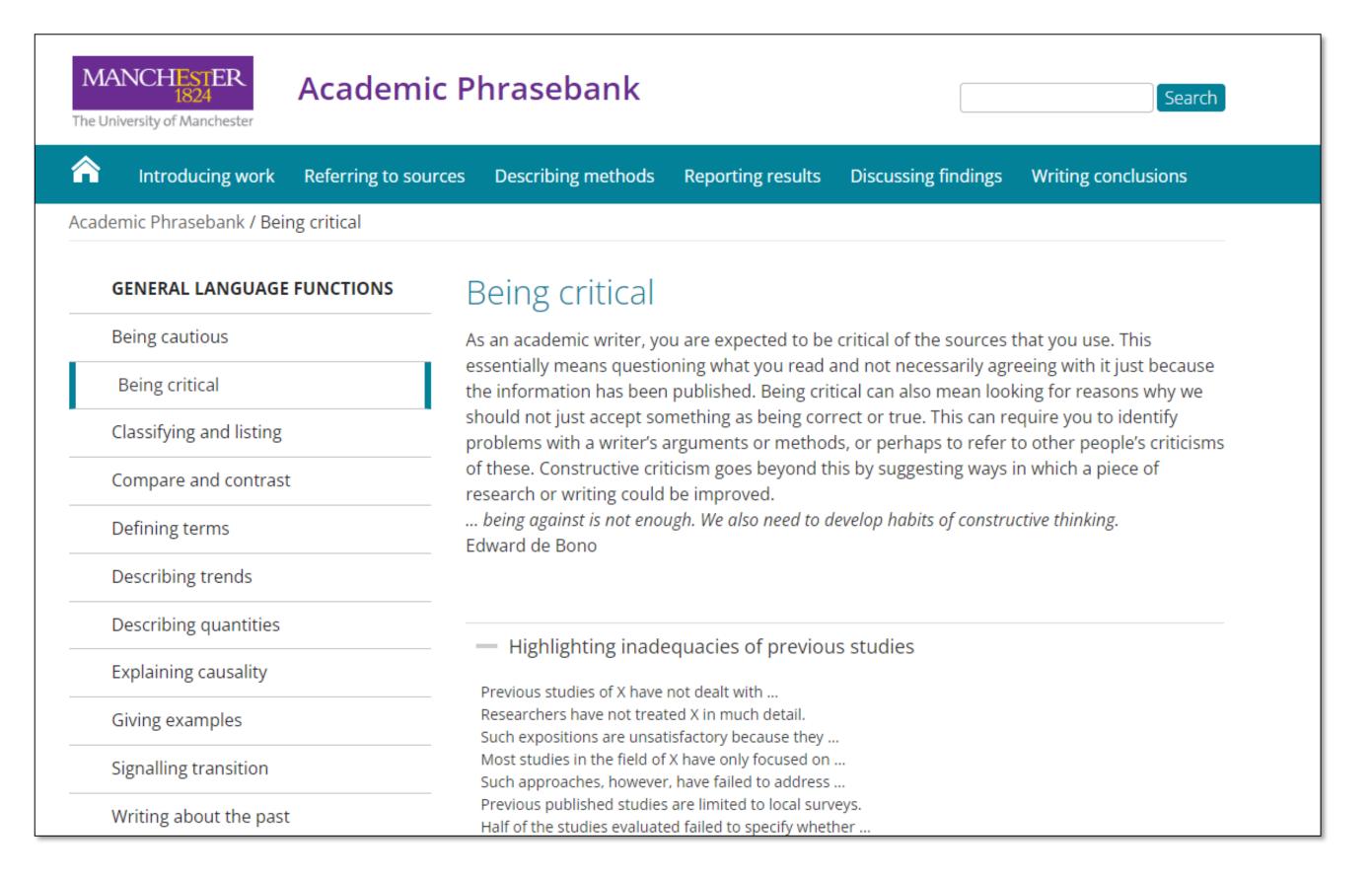A strategy where you remove specific content from a research paper and look at sentence structure

Examples:

1. The study builds on and contributes to work in _____

2. Although studies in _____ have examined _____, there has not been an _____

3. As such, this study provides additional insight into _____

4. This study analyses _____

5. Although numerous studies (*citation)* have identified _____, little attention has been paid to _____

6. I address this issue by demonstrating _____

Sentence Starters

10
MINS

Think Pair Share:

In pairs, select one or more of the writing strategies discussed in class and write 1 to 2 sentences that address the following questions:

1. What was the authors main argument?
2. What were the key findings of the study?

Mind Mapping

Matrix / Table

Sentence Starters