

## EFFECTIVENESS OF THE MIND MAPPING TECHNIQUE IN ESSAY WRITING: A CASE STUDY OF GRADE 11 ESL LEARNERS

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**Abstract:** Essay writing is a challenging skill for Grade 11 ESL learners in Sri Lanka. The mind-mapping technique has been utilized to enhance essay writing skills in many countries. Hence, this experimental study examined the effectiveness of the mind-mapping technique compared to the traditional outlining technique in improving essay writing to address the difficulties these students face. Both Mind mapping and outlining techniques improved students' essay writing skills. However, students who used the mind-mapping technique performed better than those who used the outlining technique. The most significant improvement was seen in the organization of essays, attributed mostly to the use of the mind mapping technique, compared to content, language, and mechanics of writing. The findings highlighted the effectiveness of the mind-mapping technique in enhancing essay writing in general and organizing skill in specific. Based on the findings of this study it can be concluded that the mind-mapping technique has a positive impact on the essay writing skill. Hence, the mind-mapping technique is recommended to be incorporated into teaching and learning processes to enhance the essay writing of Grade 11 ESL learners.

**Keywords:** ESL Learners, Essay Writing, Mind Mapping, Outlining.