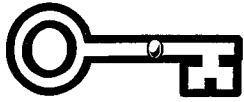


# Elements of Expository Writing



Organization is the key.

Use the colors of a traffic light and informal outlines to plan a paragraph, essay, or report.



Topic sentences are the heart.

Use green to remember that topic sentences tell your reader what you are *going* to prove or explain. In essays the topic sentence is called a thesis statement.



Transitions are the glue for the key/star ideas.

Use yellow to remind yourself to *slow down* and make smooth, yet clear transitions when a new key/star idea is introduced.



Examples, evidence, and explanation are the meat.

Use red to remind yourself to *stop* and explain. Explanation, evidence, and examples will push you to elaborate your key/star ideas.



Conclusions tie it all together.

Use green again! This will remind you to *go* back to your topic. A good conclusion reminds your reader about the purpose of your paragraph or essay.