



***USING MIND MAPPING FOR WRITING ACTIVITIES:  
A CASE STUDY AT SEKOLAH MENENGAH KERAJAAN  
KOTA SAMARAHAN***

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## ABSTRACT

This research was conducted to examine the progress of student performance in using mind mapping for the writing activities. It was also to determine the level of students' awareness towards the use of mind mapping in writing and whether mind mapping could help the students in their writing or vice versa. This research was also to examine on the problems faced by the students when they started to write such as lack of substances and limited development of ideas. It focused on how we could use mind mapping to develop our mind, to be more creative and organize the information. The aspects assessed in this research are content, organization and language competence. This research involved two groups of students, such as the experimental group and the control group. A total of 30 students were chosen as respondents and divided into two groups. The control group was taught to write essay with only the title given. For experimental written test group, the students were given mind mapping graphic based on the title of the essay. The written test was conducted four times for each group of the students. The research findings revealed that the experimental group had improved in their performance compared to the control group. They also showed improvements in their writing skills such as organizing essays cohesively and coherently. Therefore, this approach had changed the students' perception towards writing from a bored task to an interesting activity. It was hoped that this research would be able to help teachers and students in the writing.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>DECLARATION</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENT</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>ABSTRACT</b>	<b>iv</b>
<b>LIST OF TABLES</b>	<b>v – vi</b>
<b>LIST OF CHARTS</b>	<b>vi</b>
<b>CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION</b>	
1.1    Background of Study	1 - 3
1.2    Statement of Problem	3 - 4
1.3    Purpose of Study	4
1.4    Scope of Study	5
1.5    Significance of Study	6
1.6    Research Questions	7
1.7    Limitations of Study	7 - 8
1.8    Definitions of Terms	8
<b>CHAPTER 2 LITERATURE REVIEW</b>	<b>9 - 14</b>
<b>CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY</b>	
3.1    Introduction	15
3.2    Type of Data	15
3.2.1    Primary Data	15 – 16
3.2.2    The Research Design	16

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the study

Each day in classroom, students are expected to prepare narrative, persuasive and informative writings. They are asked to demonstrate their learning in different subjects through writing. Getting started, as much for student writing is one of the most difficult and inhibiting phases of the writing process. This problem has led them to assume that writing is a boring activity and unable to generate creative writing.

Since writing is primarily about organizing information and communicating meaning, generating ideas is clearly going to be a crucial part of the writing process. Therefore, generating idea is a key in facilitating the transition from thought to paper. Most people normally write their ideas in a linear progression with one work or thought after another. They put down their ideas in a random fashion without worrying about how they fit together. This frees them from worrying about processing the thoughts into some orders. Professional writers use a variety of technique to generate ideas at various stages of the process such as keeping a journal, free-writing and brainstorming.

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

Normally, we write in linear progression (Kurtus, 2003), which means with one word or thought after another. However, studies shown that people do not always think in such a manner. It is because, usually creative thoughts pop into our minds spontaneously, jumping from topic to topic. Often during process, the mind jumps around from one point to another. Graphical outlining is a great method to stimulate our creative juices and to organize our thoughts.

According to Tony Buzan, a mind map is a powerful graphic technique which provides a universal key to unlock the potential of the brain. It harnesses the full range of cortical skills – word, image, number, logic, rhythm, color and spatial awareness in a single, uniquely powerful manner. Therefore, it gives us the freedom to roam the infinite expanses of your brain. It can be applied to every aspect of life where improved learning and clearer thinking will enhance human performance.