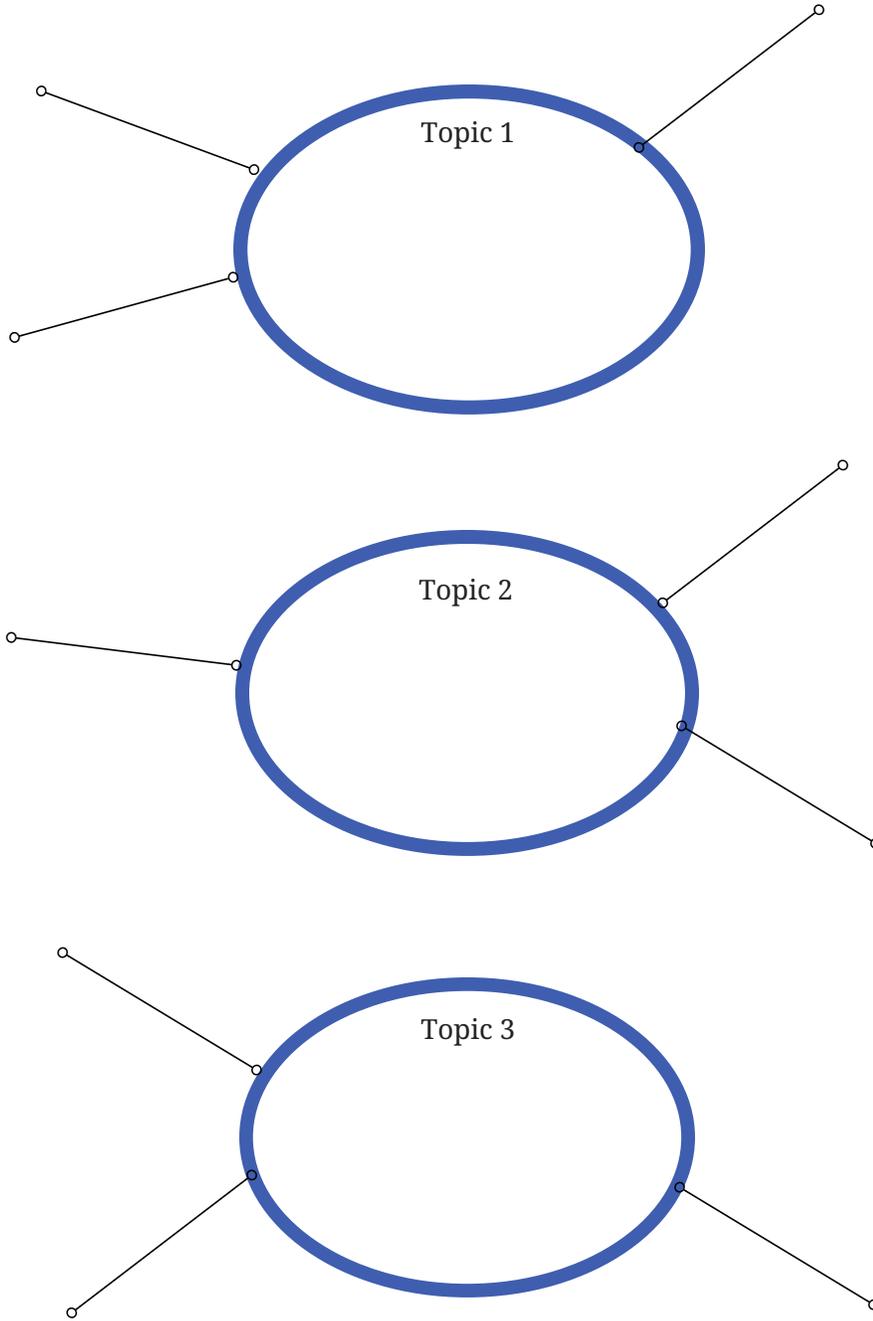


Topic:

Hook:

Thesis Statement:



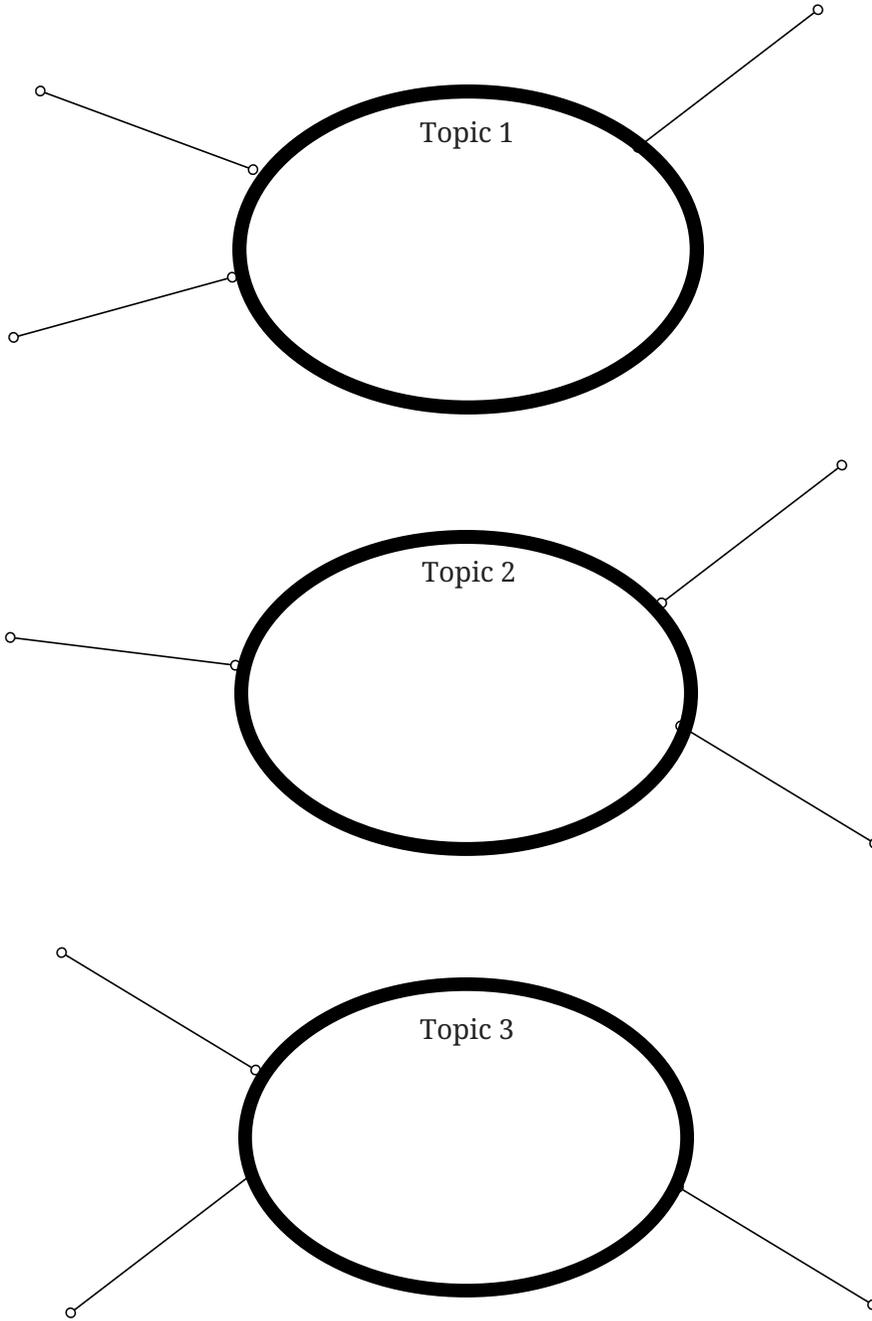
Clincher:

Conclusion:

Topic:

Hook:

Thesis Statement:

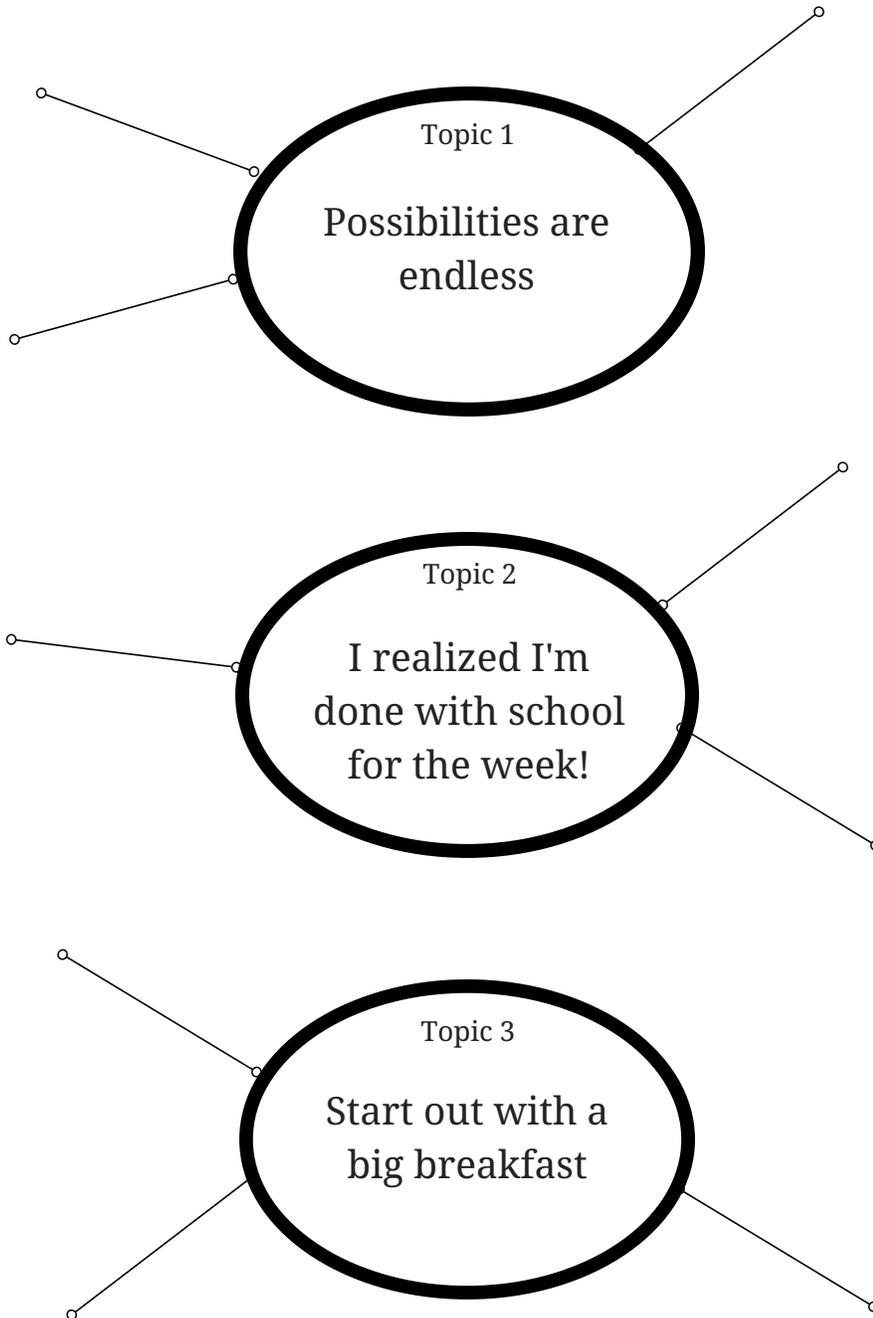


Clincher:

Conclusion:

## Topic: A Perfect Day

Hook: Any day can be an extraordinary day, as long it is approached correctly.

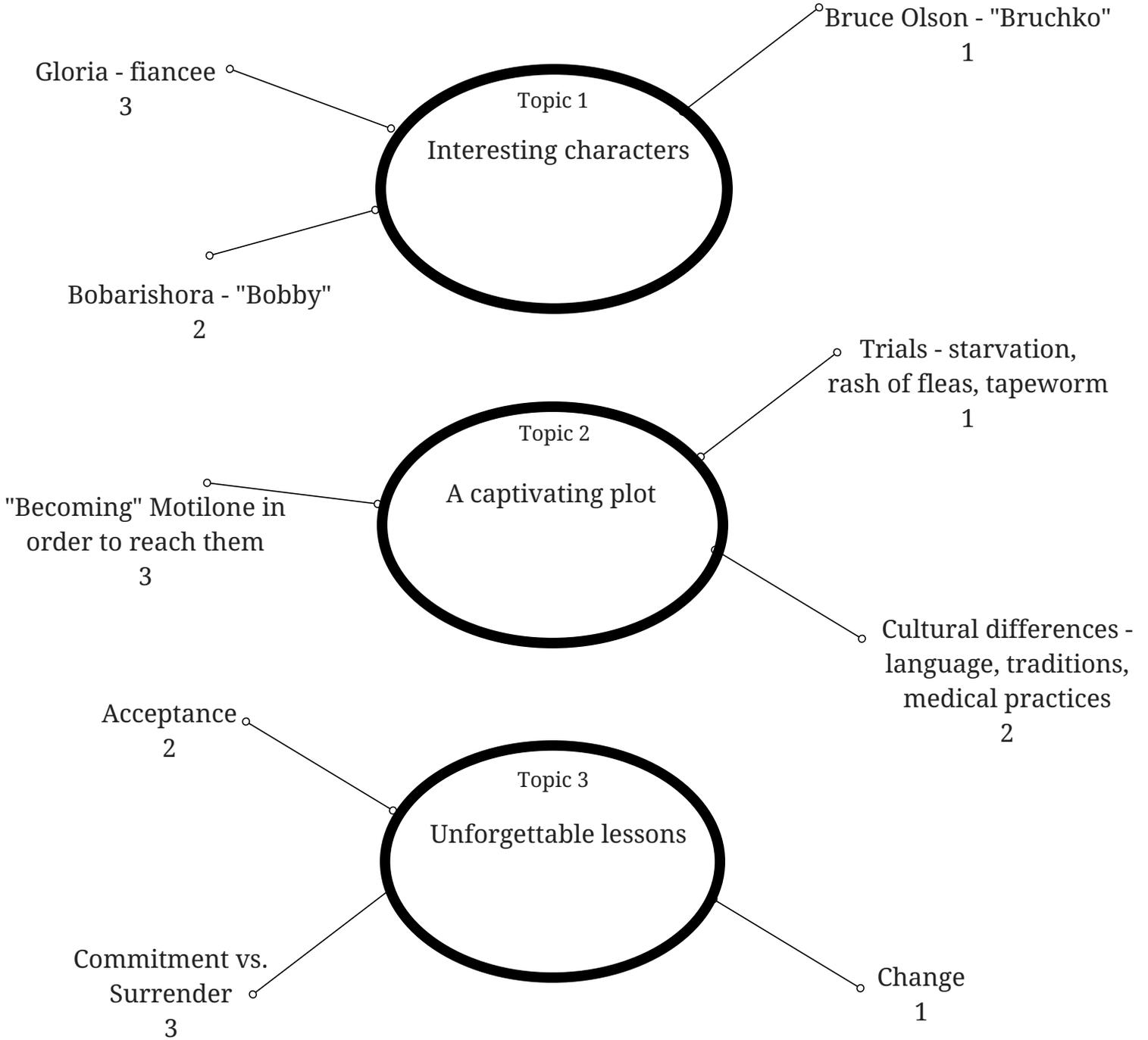


Conclusion: Fueled up and alert for the day, thinking about the joyous possibilities of a day free of homework and full of food, I knew this would be a day to remember.

Topic: Bruchko (Book Report)

Hook: "For this cross I will kill you!"

Thesis Statement: Through the use of interesting characters, a captivating plot, and unforgettable lessons this book gives the world its first look at the life of the Motilone tribe.



Clincher: "For this cross I will die."

Conclusion: The lessons in this book are life-changing if the reader takes them to heart.

# Paragraph or Essay Organizer

For elementary and middle school students, start by teaching how to write a paragraph. An example of this is "The Perfect Day," a paragraph my son wrote for a middle school assignment.

Older or more advanced writers can move on to essays, stories, and research projects fairly quickly. Use the "Bruchko" model for longer assignments.

To start, brainstorm a topic. If it's assigned, that step is taken care of. Otherwise, it should be something you are interested in and can get 3 fairly broad topics out of. Write the topic at the top prompt and then start brainstorming main topics. Each of those should be broad enough that he can think of three details to support them.

Write each topic in an oval, and then go back to topic 1. Have him think of three details that interest him or stand out; each will be 1-2 sentences.

Write one detail by each line. Do the same for topics 2 and 3.

Take a moment to figure out which detail goes first, second, and third in each paragraph. Just mark a 1, 2, or 3 next to each.

They should go in this order:

~2nd most important detail goes first

~Least important detail goes in the middle

~Most important detail goes last.

This is actually psychological - we remember what we read first and last, with the last thing being what we remember best. Therefore, you want to lead with something strong, end with something stronger, and place your least important point where people are probably going to forget it anyway.

When that is done, it's time to write the thesis statement. In a paragraph, this will be called the topic sentence. For anything with multiple paragraphs, it will be the thesis statement.

This will be a sentence that just introduces the three main topics. It can be something as simple as "My favorite TV show is \_\_\_ because it has \_\_, \_\_, and \_\_\_." (The skill will grow from there, but it's fine to start out simple.)

\*The conclusion is just a restatement of the thesis, worded a bit differently. It's important to keep the points in the same order.

Once you have those, it's usually a lot easier to come up with a hook and clincher. The hook is the first sentence - it's something to get your audience interested. It can be an exclamation, a question, a quote, or a weird fact.

The clincher is the last sentence - it is what wraps things up and makes your reader take something from what you wrote. Common clinchers are a question, a challenge, or a "think about that" closer.

When you are done with the organizer, it's time to write your paragraph or essay. Everything is all laid out for you, which makes it a lot easier to write it down.

Write your rough draft first. This is just getting your thoughts down on paper - don't worry about it being perfect. It's not supposed to be!

Once your rough draft is done, put it away for a few hours, even for a day. Then, take it back out and look through it. Do you see anything you want to change? Make some notes, and then give it to someone else (like your mom or dad) to look over. When you figure out what you want to revise, go ahead and make the changes. Great job!