

How to create an essay plan

Start with your main topics that you need or want to cover in your essay (see Mind Map below if that type of visual helps you).

- a. Group all the pieces of information together that go under these main topics (subtopics).
- b. Then arrange the main topics into the order you want to introduce them in your essay, then arrange the subtopics in order under these main topics so that it makes sense to move from one to the next one.

If you do not make a plan with these things in order, the essay ends up being a bit messed up.

If Mrs.McKenzie were doing the following essay, she would organise it using the following table.

For your own essay, please use the table below:

Kabuki Example	Your Essay
Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rephrasing the question as a statement.• Naming the play, the stage element (stage design) and the theatre style.• 5 elements of stage design in Kabuki - structural , technical, decorative, symbolic, stagehands (the essay should follow this same order)• Why the theatre element is so important to make the theatre style unique.	
The Play <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a brief introduction on what acts are usually performed together and which act which specifically be examined• Why each role must be aware of the stage requirements for Kabuki	

Kabuki Example	Your Essay
Elements of Main stage which are permanent (structural)	
Element 1 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic Description of the main stage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • specific measurements • decorations • specific elements of the stage which cannot be left out or covered 	
Element 2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two levels • permanent floor description & how it is used • dance floor description & how it used • symbolism 	
Element 3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Symbolism of sides of stage & levels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who enters from which side & why • the stage props & symbolism 	
Element 4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standard features of the Kabuki stage (decorative) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geza - black lattice • Yuka - revolving platform • Curtain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • colours & significance • how it opens and significance 	

Kabuki Example	Your Essay
Element 5 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flower Path (decorative) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description • measurements • use by actors quote • how it affects the Benten (actor) movements and speech • how other actors are affected by the flower path <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who, how & when 	
Element 6 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical Elements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • flying winch • revolving stage • how both are used (scene and effect) • small Stage lifts • how they are used (scene & effect) • larger stage lifts • scenes they are used and the effect 	
Element 7 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backdrop <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • significance of colours and how it affects costuming 	
Stage hands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • role in the Kabuki set change. • specifics of who they look after, dress and stage presence. • scenes they are used and the effect 	
Audience seating <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sides and symbolism • importance of the audience seating arrangements 	
Kabuki boards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • description • how they connect with the play 	

Kabuki Example	Your Essay
Conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat name of play, theatre element and theatre style. • Summarise information in a general way and if it was answered. 	

What this essay currently looks like broken down into a plan like structure:

Introduction

Rephrasing the question as a statement

Naming the play, the stage element (stage design) and the theatre style

3 types of stage design

Why the theatre element is so important to make the theatre style unique.

p. 1 Play - a **brief** introduction on what acts are usually performed together and which act which specifically be examined

p. 2 Why each role must be aware of the stage requirements for Kabuki

p. 3 Description of the main stage -

- specific measurements

- decorations

- specific elements of the stage which cannot be left out or covered

p. 4 Curtain in Kabuki theatre

p. 5 Curtain

- colours & significance

- how it opens and significance

p. 6 Standard features of the Kabuki stage - Geza - black lattice

- Yuka - revolving platform

p. 7 Standard features of Kabuki - The flower path

- description

- measurements

- use by actors

p. 8 Flower path

- quotation to support previous paragraph

p. 9 Flower path

- how it affects the Benten (actor) movements and speech

p. 10 Flower path

- how other actors are affected by the flower path

- who, how & when

p. 11 Technical elements of the Kabuki stage

p. 12 Technical stage

- flying winch

- revolving stage

- how are used (scene and effect)

p. 13 Technical stage

- small Stage lifts

- how they are used (scene & effect)

p. 14 Technical stage

- larger stage lifts

- scenes they are used and the effect

p.15 Technical stage

- second stage lifts

- scenes they are used & the effect

p.16 Stagehands

- role in the Kabuki set change.

- p.17 Stagehands
 - scene they are used and the effect
- p.18 Stagehands
 - specific scenes they are used and why
- p. 19 Backdrop
 - specifics of who they look after, dress and stage presence.
- p. 20 Backdrop
 - significance of colours and how it affects costuming
- p. 20 Stage structure
 - two levels
 - permanent floor description & how it is used
 - dance floor description & how it used
 - symbolism
- p.21 Symbolism of sides of stage & levels
 - who enters from which side & why
 - the stage props & symbolism
- p. 22 Audience seating
 - sides and symbolism
 - importance of the audience seating arrangements
- p. 23 Kabuki boards
 - description
 - how they connect with the play

Conclusion

Repeat name of play, theatre element and theatre style.
Summarise information in a general way
and if it was answered.

Mind Map:

