

Five friends, one goal:  
**Writing assignments  
that work**

**Where do I start?**

**How do I get going?**

**How do I get unstuck?**

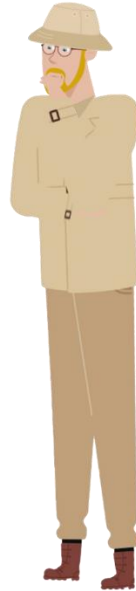
**How do I make it good?**



# Your 5 friends



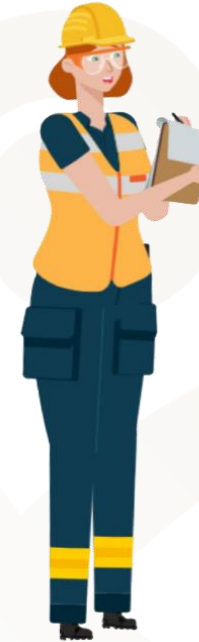
Brainstormer



Hunter-  
Gatherer



Architect



Builder



Judge

# The Brainstormer

- explores ideas
- dreams up possible directions

What is the assessment question asking?

What do you already know?

What gaps do you need to fill?

No idea is too wild right now!



# The Hunter-Gatherer

- seeks resources
- finds the material you need to answer your question

What search terms are best?

What resources could you use?

What resources are actually helpful?

What resources are good quality?

What do you need to gather from each resource?



# The Architect



- organises ideas
- structures your assignment

What structure works best for this assignment?

How can you group the ideas?

How can I order the ideas?

How can I balance the ideas?

What ideas should be left out?

# The Builder

- Constructs the draft
- Follows the plan one paragraph at a time
- Trims and strengthens



# MEAL plan for paragraphs

- Main Point
- Evidence
- Analysis
- Link back to your argument





- **Main Point**

the big idea or claim of the paragraph

- **Evidence**

specific examples that support your main point

- **Analysis**

commentary about the evidence;  
why/how does your evidence  
support your main point?

- **Link back to your argument**

connect back to your main idea /  
transition to the next paragraph



# The Judge

- edits your work
- trims and strengthens
- proofreads

Have you answered the question?

Have you met the criteria? Check the rubric!

How strong are your arguments?

What can you trim and sharpen?

Proofread for errors and double-check citations



# SBL Style Guide

For use in the School of Theology

## 2025



# APA Style Guide

For use in the Schools  
of Counselling and Education

## 2025

