

Rationale™

**Map Examples  
for  
Primary School**



**Simply Better Thinking**

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# Rationale Overview

**Rationale utilizes a logical structure with colour and images to provide the visual framework to build critical thinking and communication skills.**

There are two invaluable map formats for primary school students. These provide the tool for organizing information and structuring ideas and reasoning.

**1. GROUPING MAPS** provide pupils a tool to gather, group and structure information and ideas. They are one step further from brainstorming because they show the relationship between categories and sub categories.

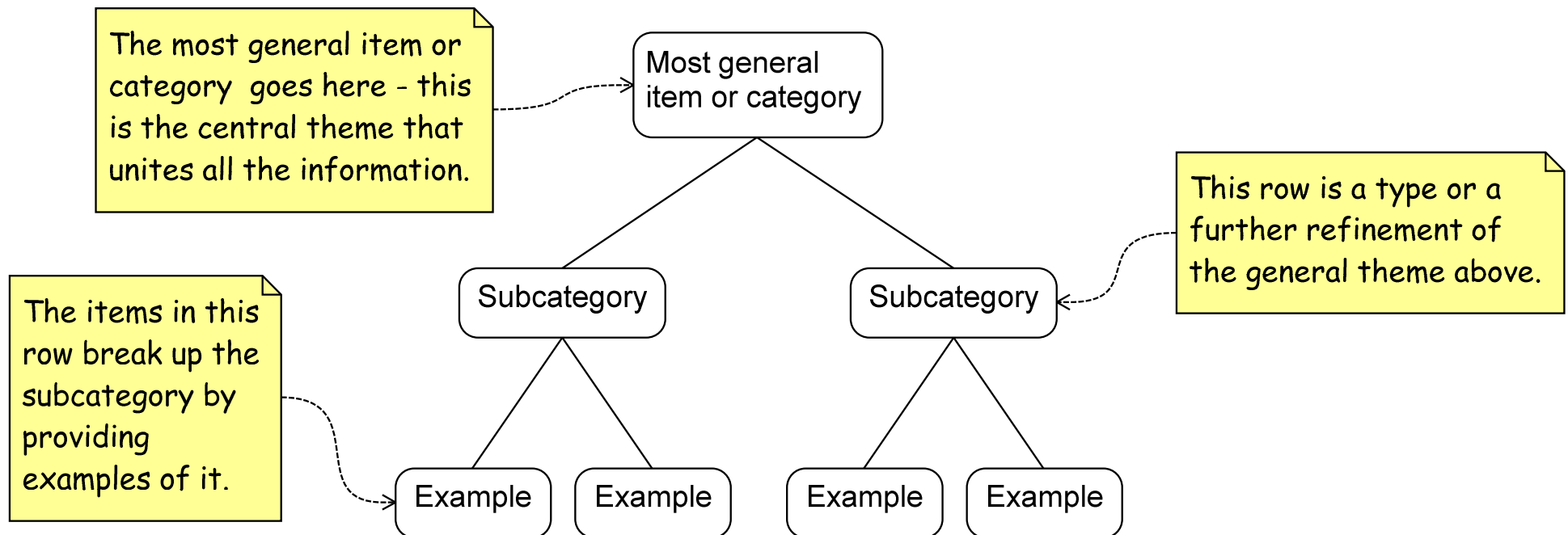
**2. REASONING MAPS** scaffold the thinking process in a clear and logical manner.

Higher level primary students can develop their communication and writing skills by using the Rationale **ESSAY PLANNER**. This provides a visual template with exported prose to assist with writing clear and reasoned paragraphs or short essays.

This guide will provide you with some Rationale examples to inspire your critical thinking classroom. We would love to hear how you go, you can contact us at [education@austhink.com](mailto:education@austhink.com) if you have any comments, questions or feedback.

# Grouping Maps

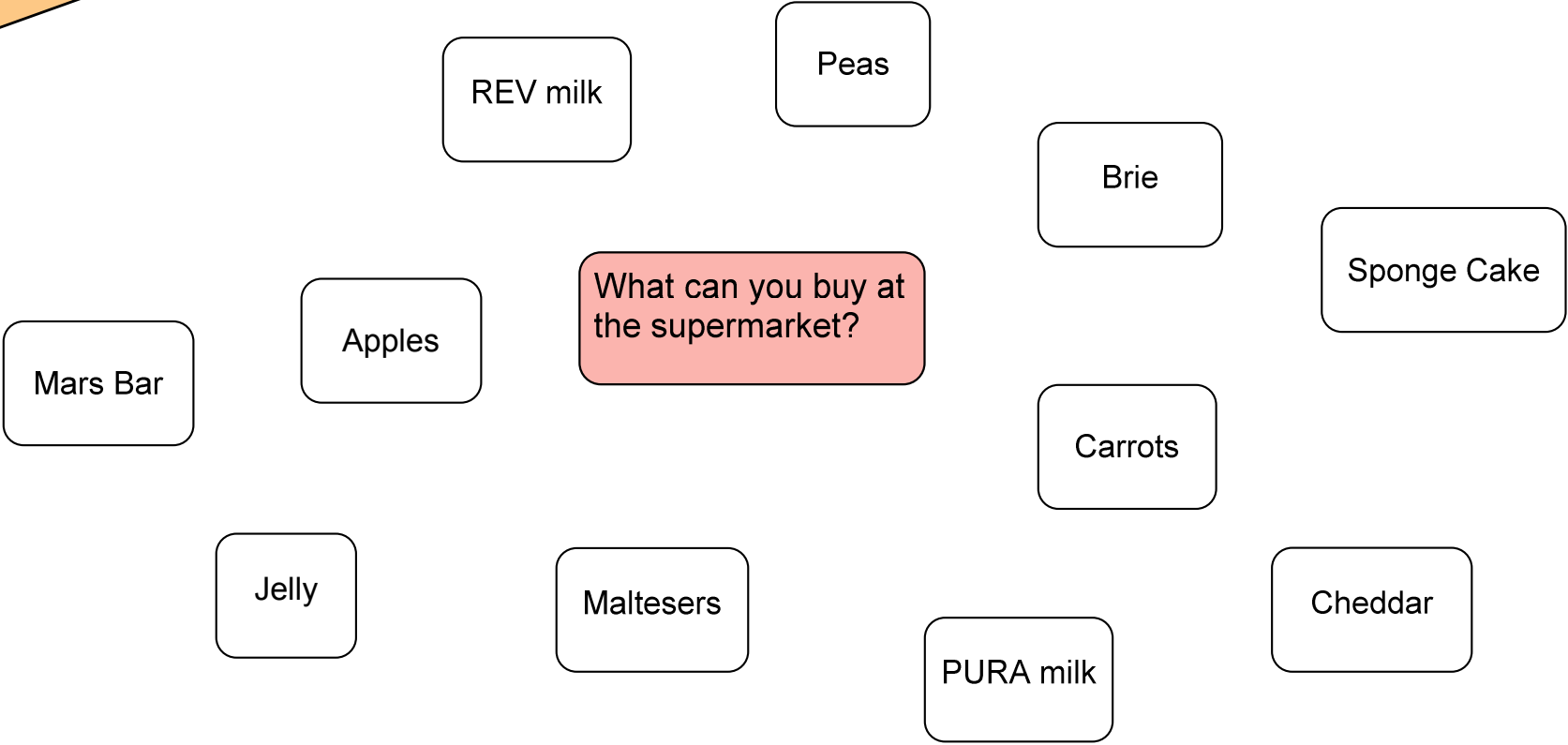
Grouping maps categorize data into a logical structure. This helps you sort your information and determine how different things are related to one another.





Here is an example of how grouping maps can be built.

Step 1: Brainstorm



Step 2: Group

Fresh Foods

Apples

Peas

Bananas

Carrots

Sweet Foods

Jelly

Maltesers

Mars Bar

Sponge Cake

Dairy

REV milk

PURA milk

Brie

Cheddar

### Step 3: Classify

Fresh Foods

Vegetables

Fruit

Carrots

Peas

Bananas

Apples

Dairy

Milk

Cheese

REV

PURA

Brie

Cheddar

Sweet Foods

Desserts

Chocolate

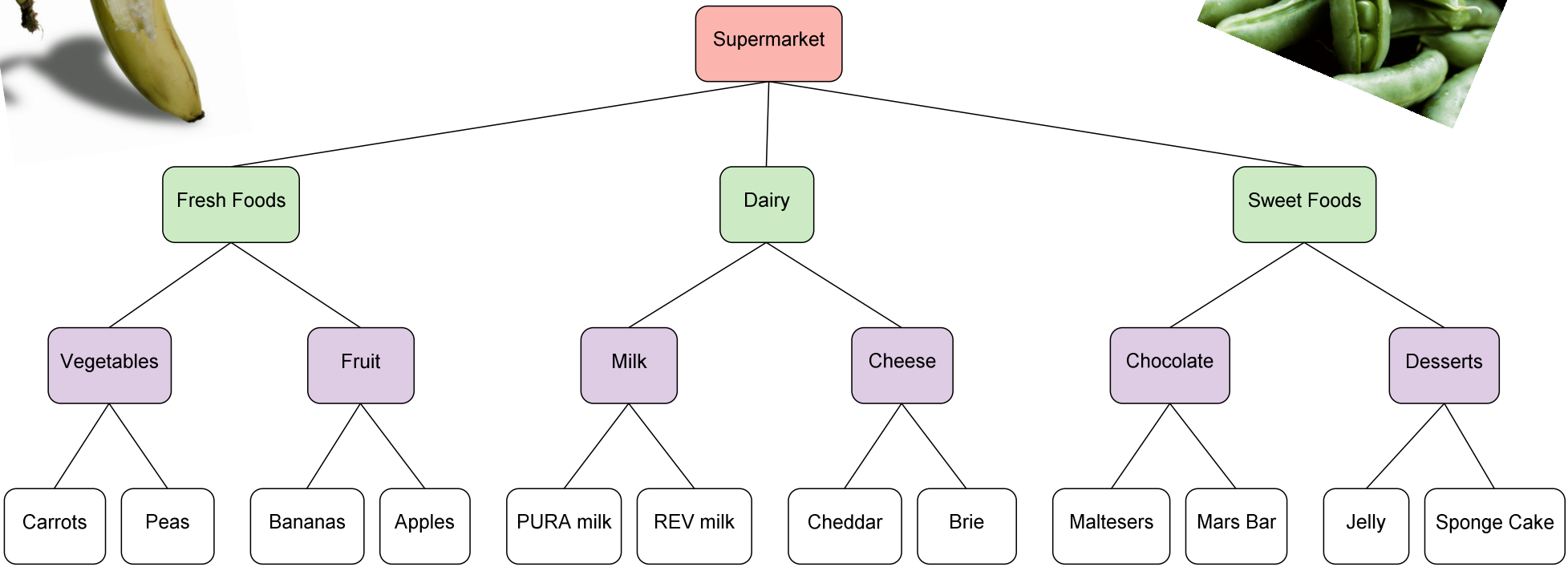
Sponge Cake

Jelly

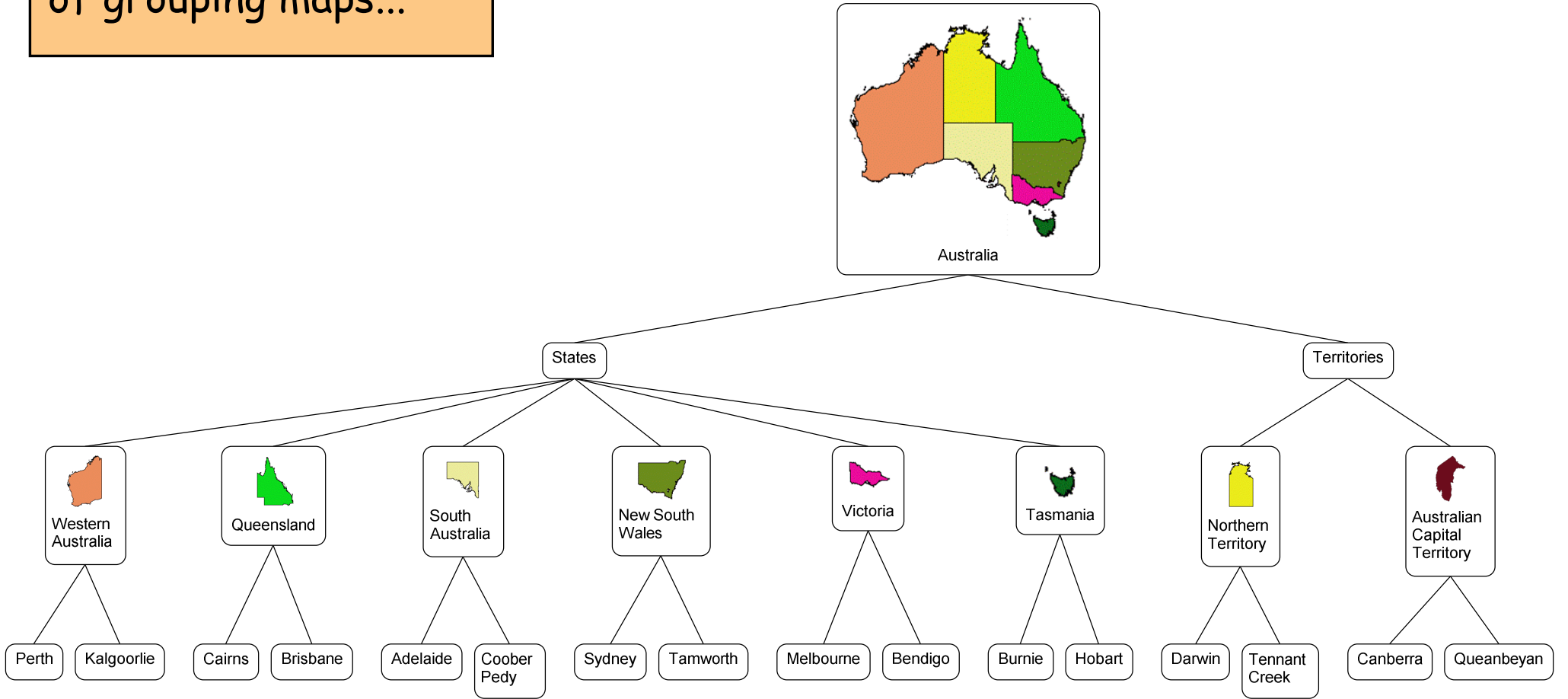
Mars Bar

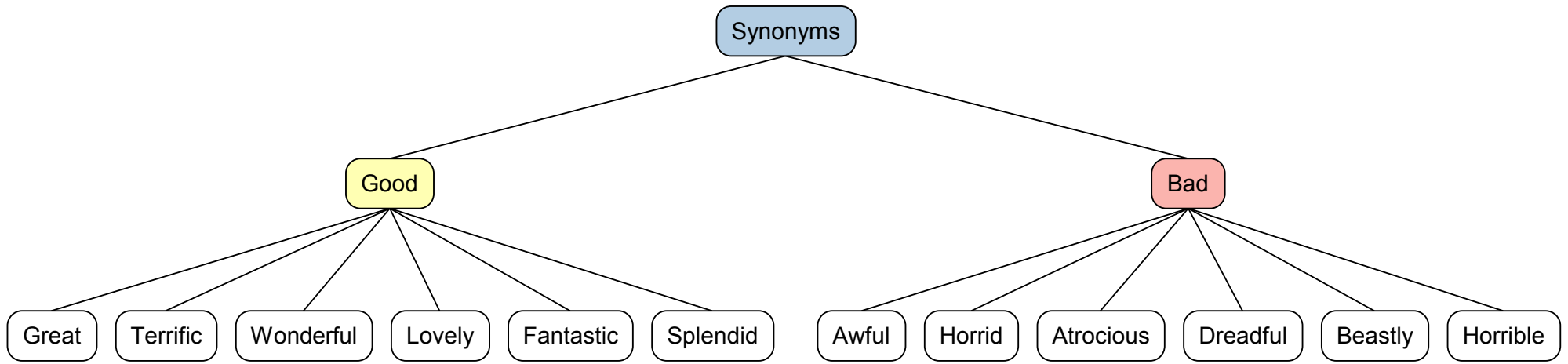
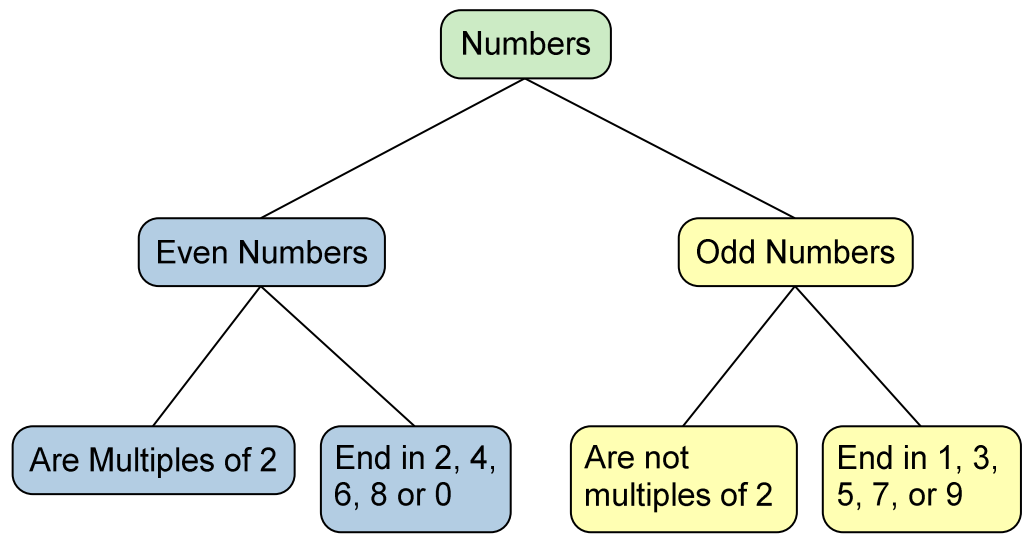
Maltesers

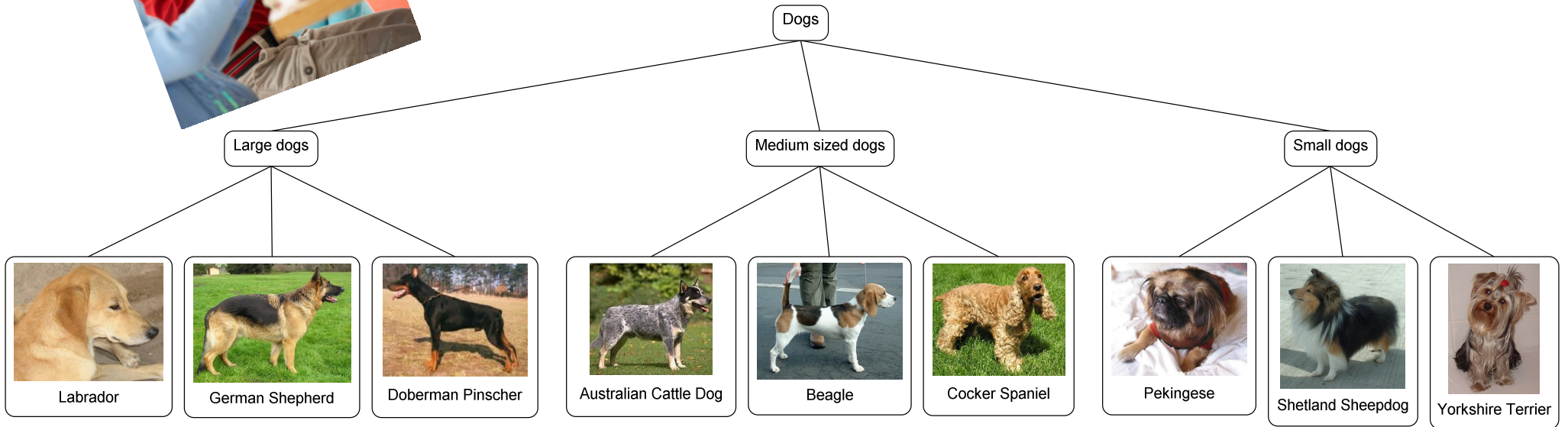
Step 4: Organise



Some more examples of grouping maps...

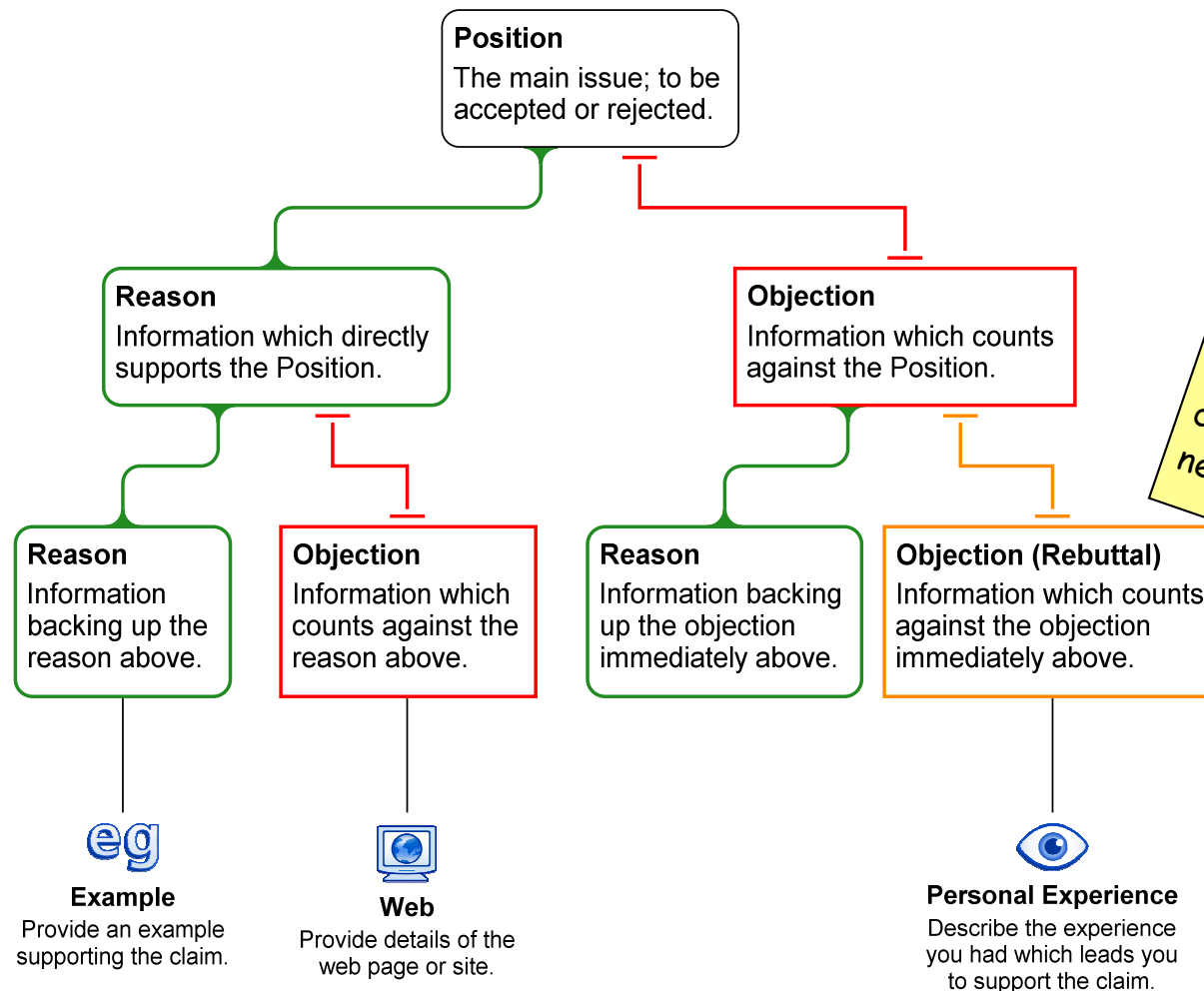






# Reasoning Maps

Reasoning maps allow you to structure arguments for or against a position. You can also use basis boxes to show different forms of evidence or sources of information.



Add as many reasons or objections as you need to the map by dragging them from the Reasoning Tab in Rationale and dropping them where you need them.



Here is an example of how reasoning maps can be built.

**Step 1**

Using a 'position' box, type in the topic to be discussed.

**Position**  
Everyone should eat breakfast.



Research

**Step 2**

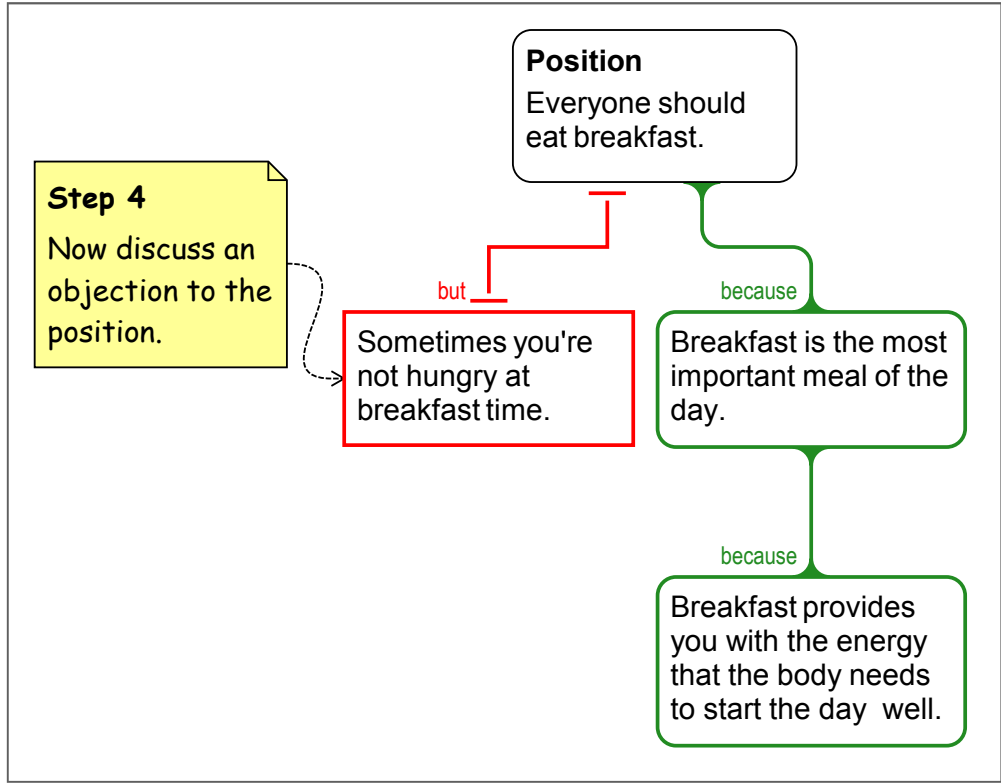
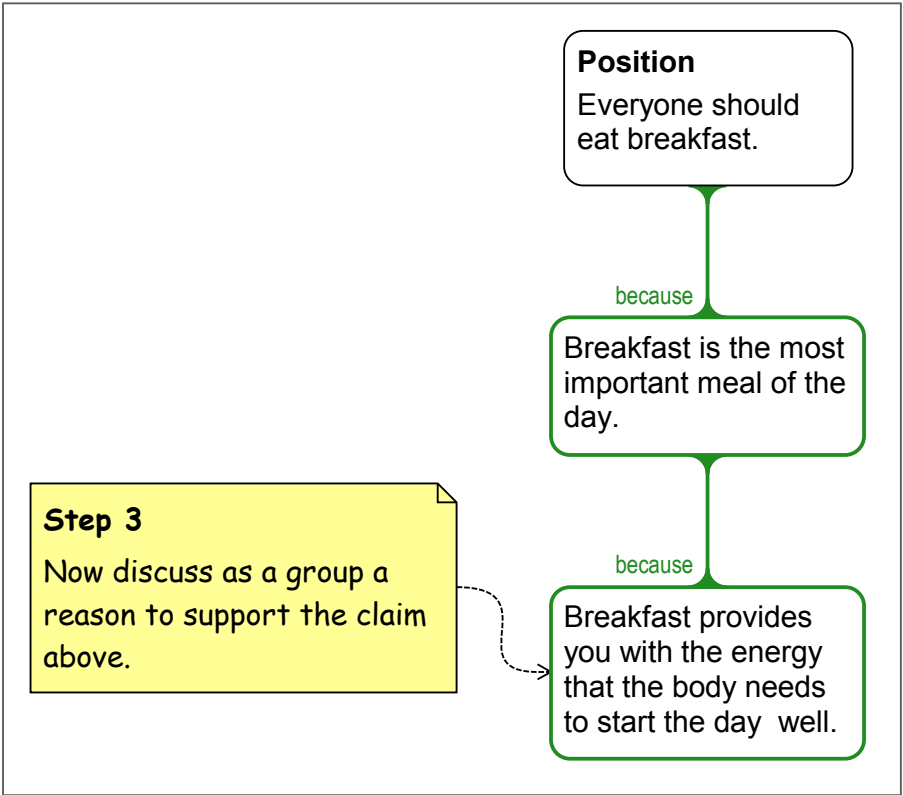
Ask pupils to think of a reason to support this position (claim).

**Position**  
Everyone should eat breakfast.

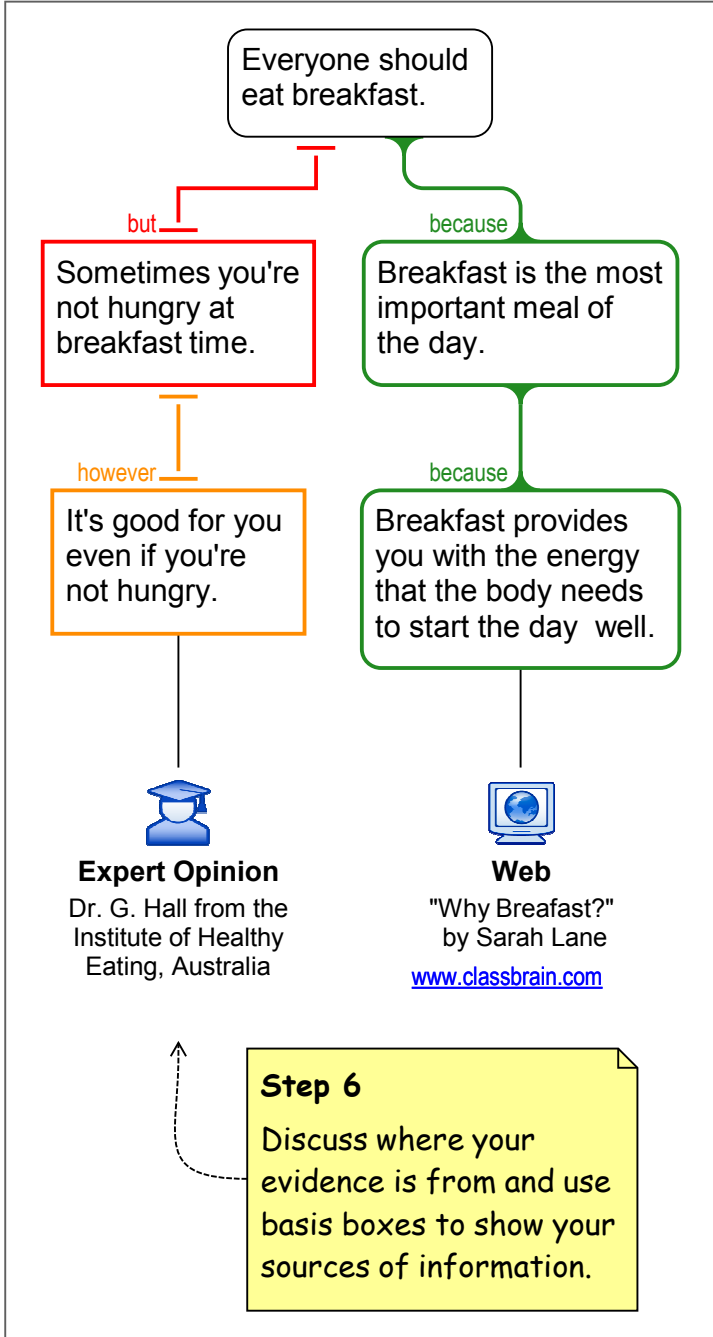
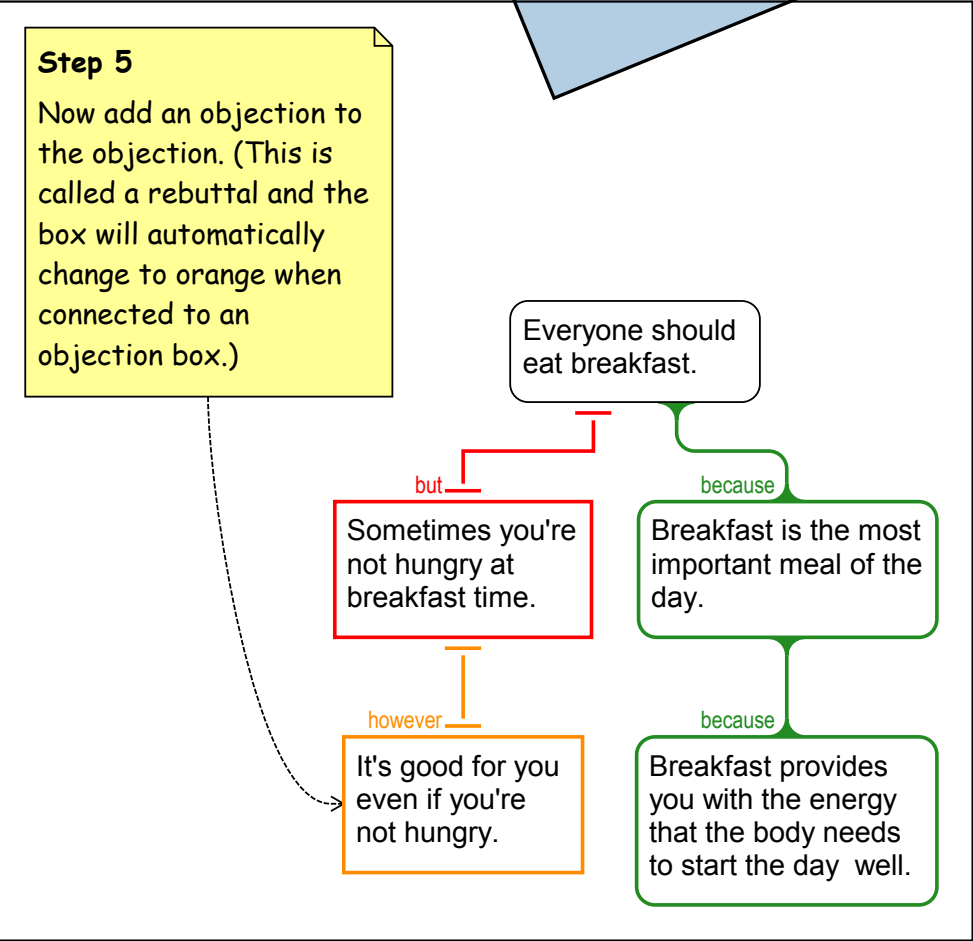
because

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

# Inquire



# Consider evidence



Conclude



**Step 7**  
Evaluate the argument. Start by discussing how reliable the evidence is and work your way up each branch of the map. Finally, decide whether you will accept or reject your position based on the evidence you have. Maybe you will decide that more evidence is needed before you accept or reject the position.

Everyone should eat breakfast.

but   
Sometimes you're not hungry at breakfast time.

because ●●  
Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

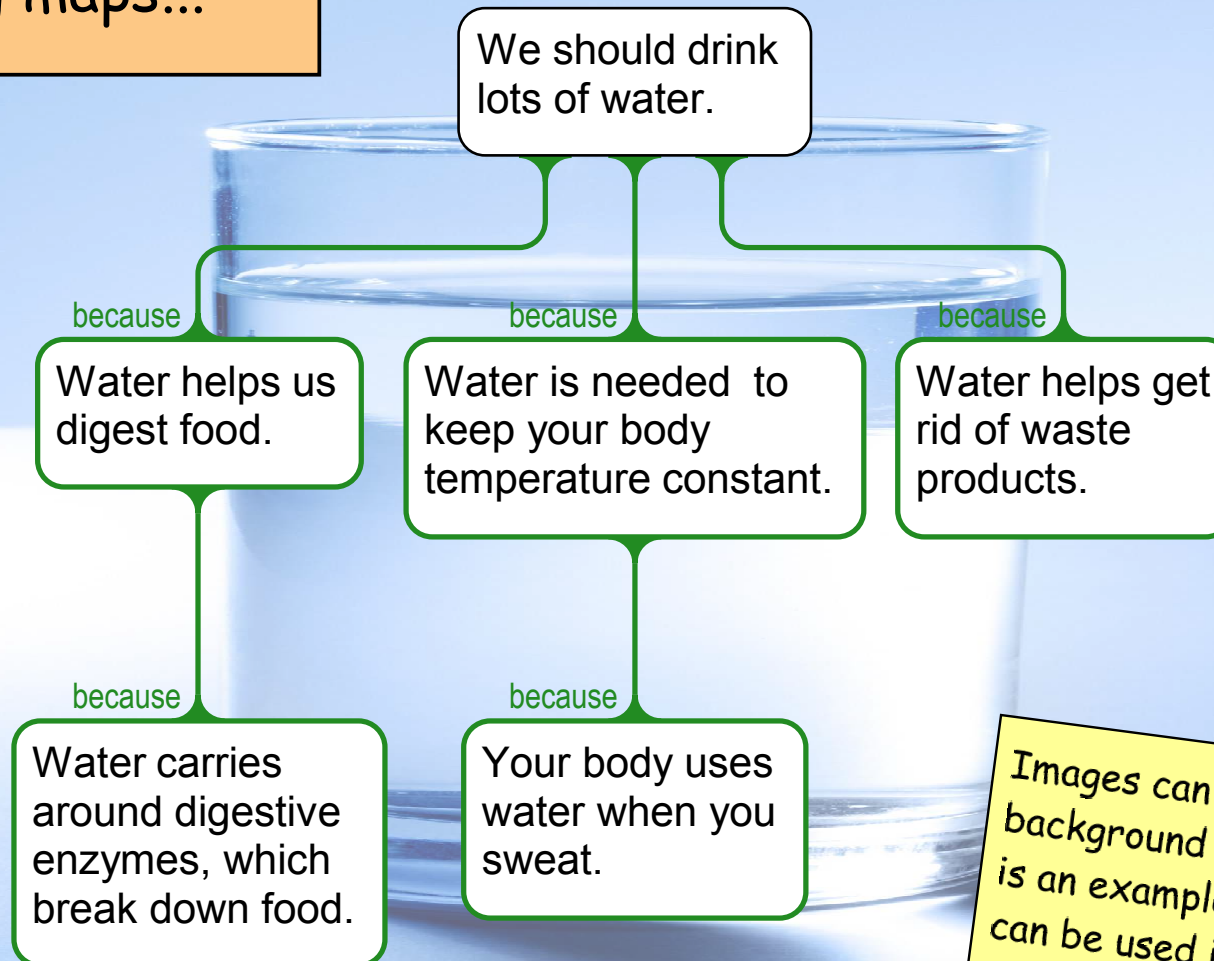
however   
It's good for you even if you're not hungry.

because ●●  
Breakfast provides you with the energy that the body needs to start the day well.

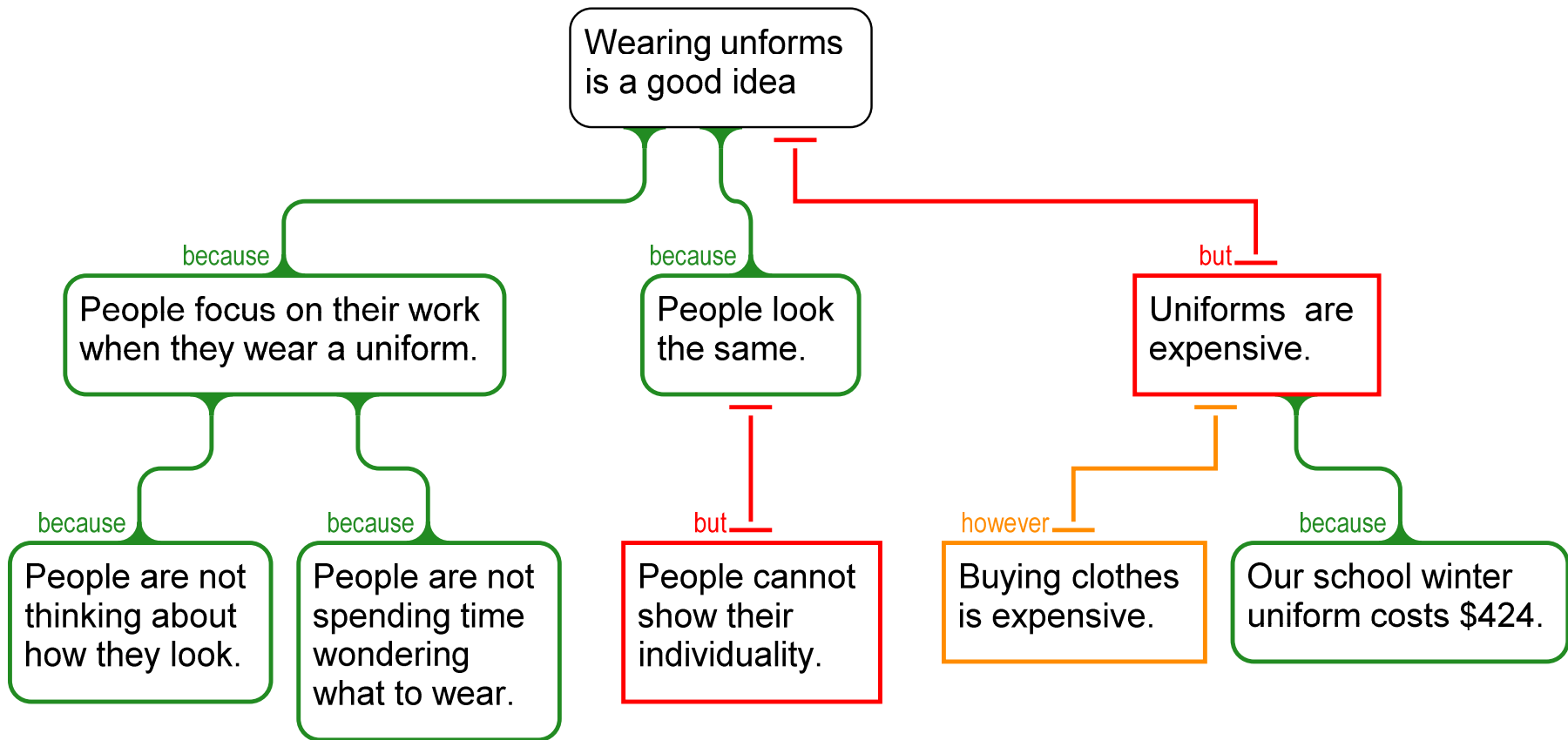
  
**Expert Opinion**  
Dr. G. Hall from the Institute of Healthy Eating, Australia

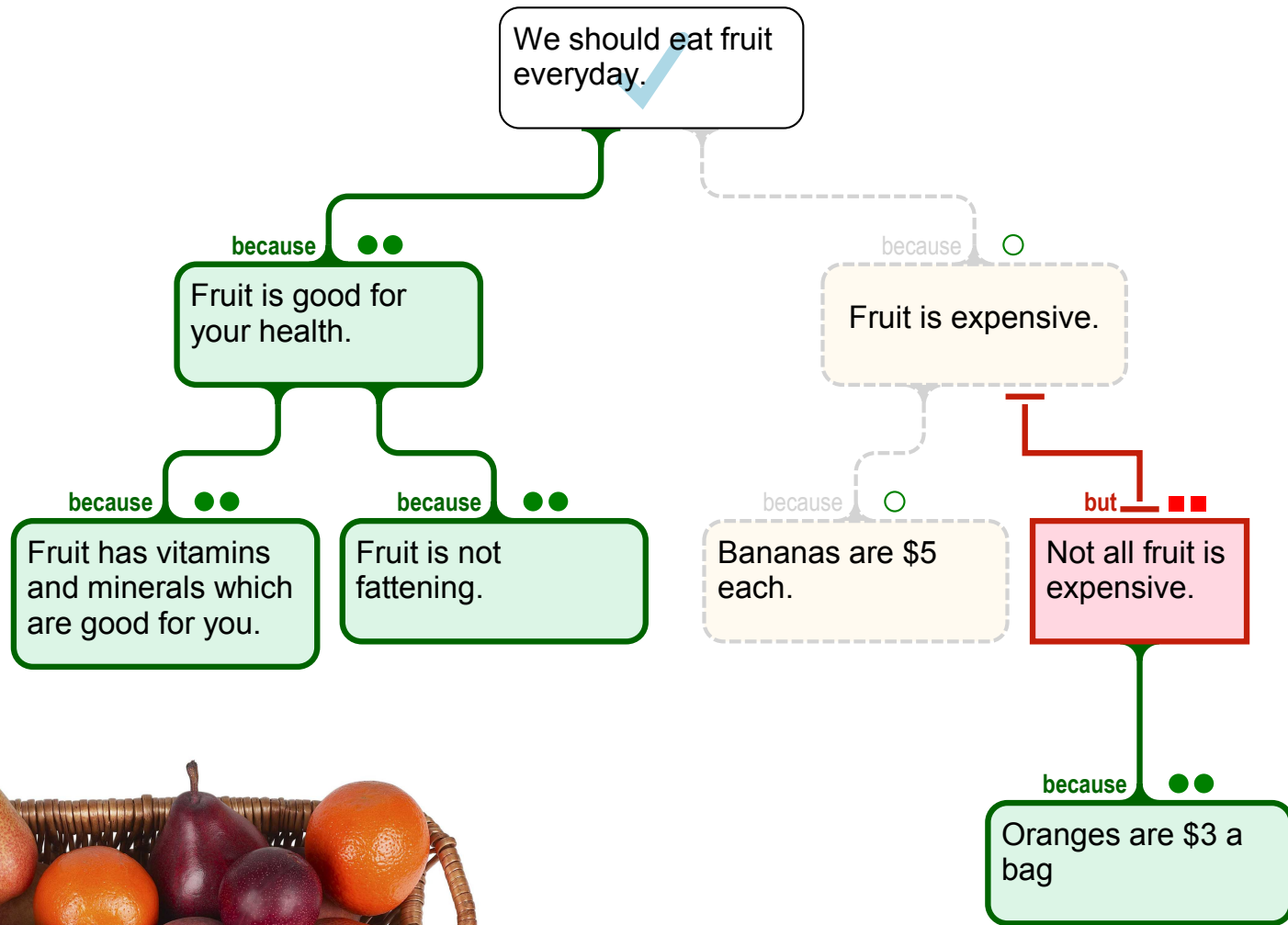
  
**Web**  
"Why Breakfast?" by Sarah Lane  
[www.classbrain.com](http://www.classbrain.com)

Some more examples  
of reasoning maps...

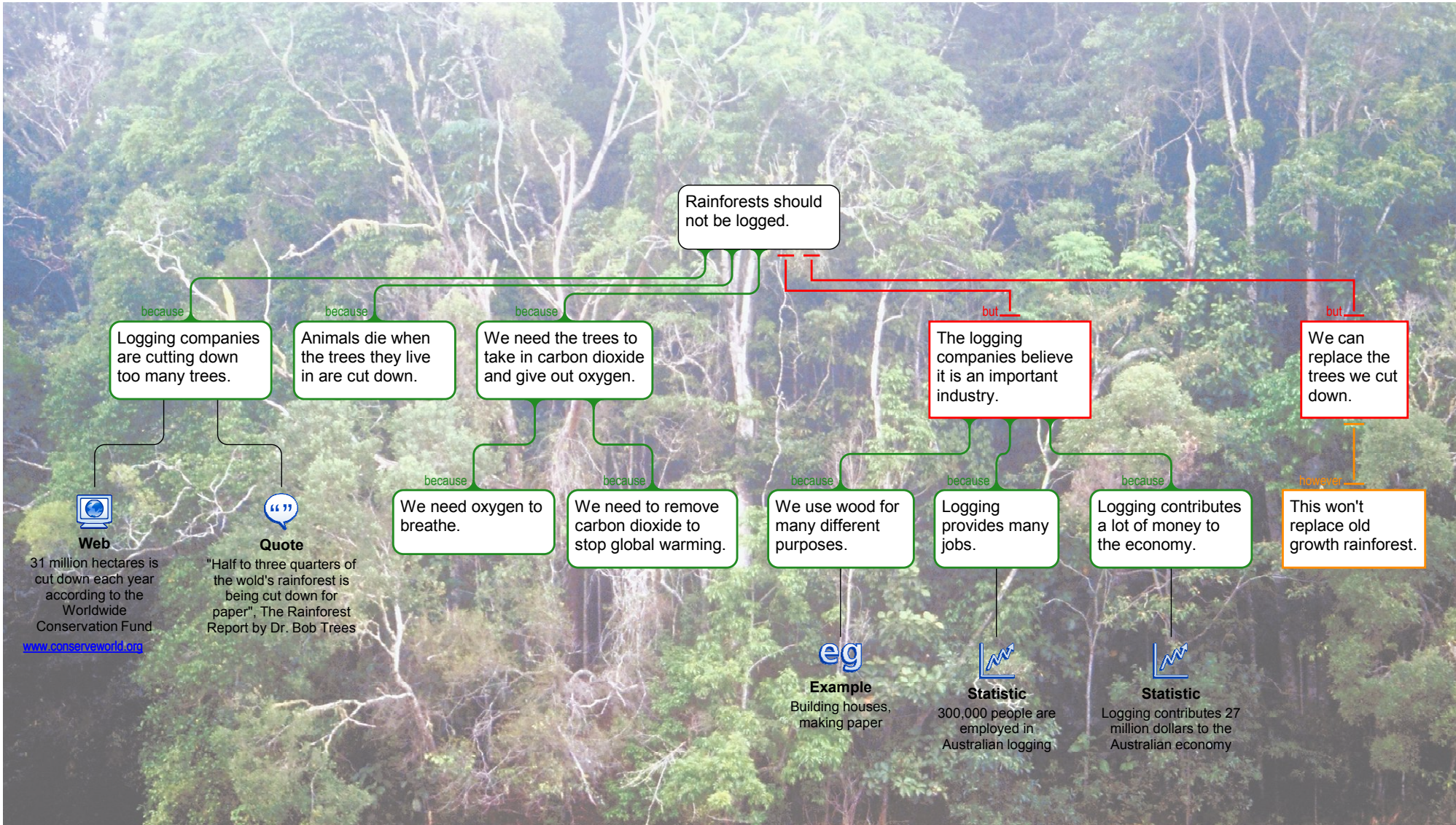


Images can be used as a background to your map. Here is an example of how an image can be used in the presentation of a map.







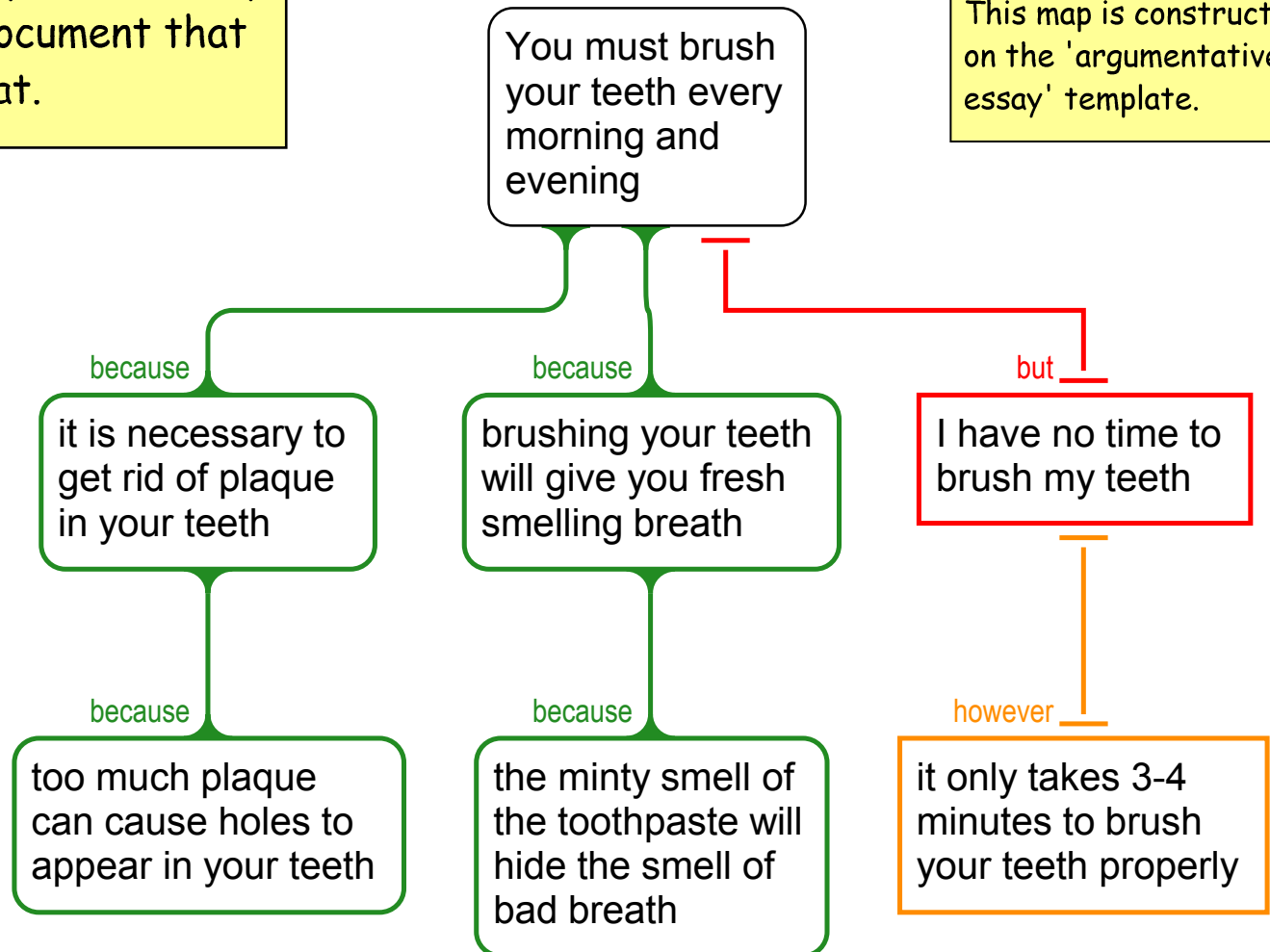
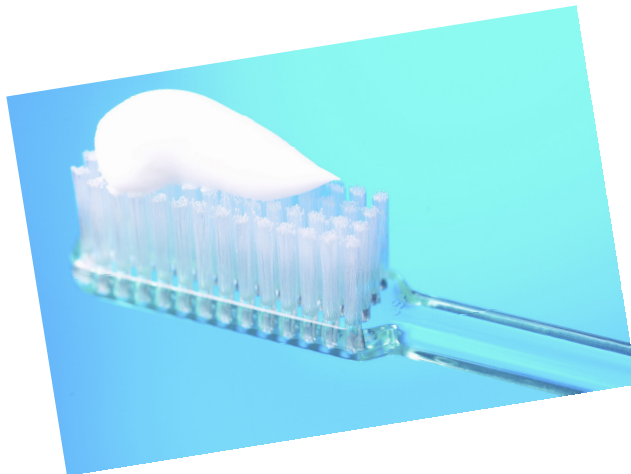




# Essay Templates

Rationale has several essay templates. When the templates are complete the map can be exported to a word document that puts it in a basic essay format.

This map is constructed on the 'argumentative essay' template.



Persuade

[Type your title here]

This is the basic essay format for the previous map.

[Type your name here]

*[Begin by giving some background. Why are you discussing this topic? Does it relate to someone else's discussion, for example a newspaper report?]*  
You must brush your teeth every morning and evening. There are two main reasons supporting this position, and the main objection to it can be rebutted.

The first reason is that it is necessary to get rid of plaque in your teeth, since too much plaque can cause holes to appear in your teeth. *[You can put a relevant example or an explanation of this here, or provide further evidence for it. Do you have a source, reference or a quote you can use?]*

The second reason to think that you must brush your teeth every morning and evening is that brushing your teeth will give you fresh smelling breath. This is because the minty smell of the toothpaste will hide the smell of bad breath. *[You can put a relevant example or an explanation of this here, or provide further evidence for it. Do you have a source, reference or a quote you can use?]*

On the other hand, a consideration against the idea that you must brush your teeth every morning and evening is that I have no time to brush my teeth. *[If you can think of someone who has made this claim refer to him/her. You may even provide a quote.]* This objection is not convincing, however, because it only takes 3-4 minutes to brush your teeth properly. *[You can put a relevant example or an explanation of this here, or provide further evidence for it. Do you have a source, reference or a quote you can use?]*

Based on this reasoning it is clear that you must brush your teeth every morning and evening. *[Can you think of any changes in circumstances that would make you reconsider your position? Describe them and explain why and how your position might change.]*

Handy checklist and guidelines for fleshing out the essay.

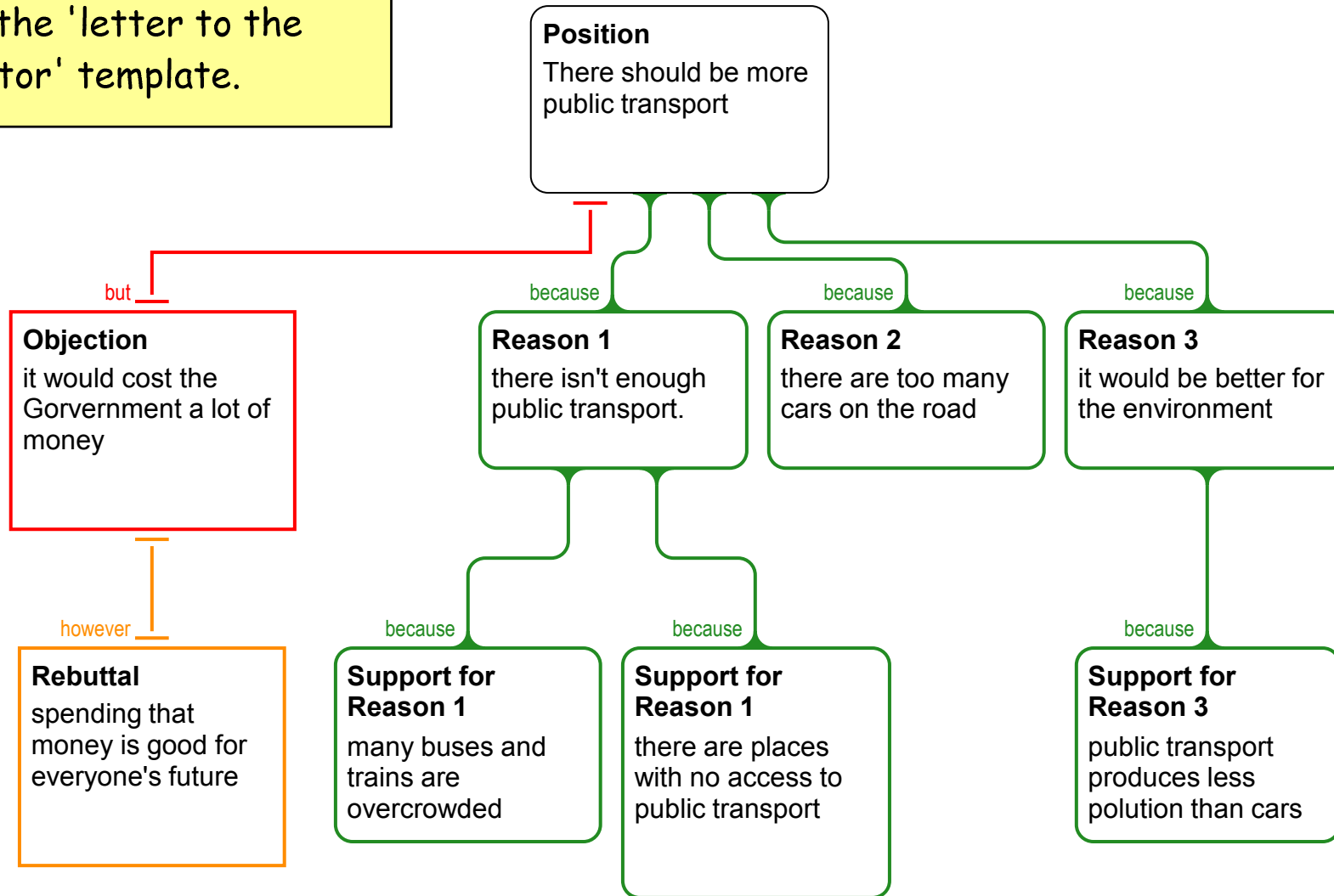
**I have corrected spelling, grammar and punctuation.**

- I have made sure that all my sentences make sense.
- I have checked with my teacher that this essay is appropriate for this subject.
- I have followed the relevant guidelines to complete my essay.
- I have typed my essay title and my name at the top of the page.
- I have fixed the formatting and deleted the guidance information. (If you're

working in

Microsoft Word, to restore everything to the normal font press Ctrl+A then Ctrl+Spacebar on your keyboard.)

This map is constructed on the 'letter to the editor' template.



This is the map in essay form, with handy hints for fleshing out the essay.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to contend that **There should be more public transport**. This is contrary to the view voiced by ... The objection raised by supporters of this view is that **it would cost the Government a lot of money**. I reject this claim because **spending that money is good for everyone's future**.

Furthermore, there are three strong reasons to support my view that **There should be more public transport**. The first reason is that **there isn't enough public transport**, since many buses and trains are overcrowded. In addition, this reason is supported by the fact that **there are places with no access to public transport**.

The second reason is the obvious view that **there are too many cars on the road**.

Dear Sir / Madam,

I am writing to contend that There should be more public transport. This is contrary to the view voiced by ... *[provide details of the person/s taking the contrary position and details as to where you have heard or read it]* The objection raised by supporters of this view is that it would cost the Government a lot of money. I reject this claim because spending that money is good for everyone's future. *[You can put a relevant example or an explanation of this here, or provide further evidence for it.]*

Furthermore, there are three strong reasons to support my view that There should be more public transport. The first reason is that there isn't enough public transport, since many buses and trains are overcrowded. *[You can put a relevant explanation of this here, or provide details of the basis for this claim.]* In addition, this reason is supported by the fact that there are places with no access to public transport. *[You can put a relevant example or an explanation of this here, or provide further evidence for it, such as an expert opinion, statistic or quote.]*

The second reason is the obvious view that there are too many cars on the road. *[You can put a relevant example or an explanation of this here, or provide further evidence for it.]*

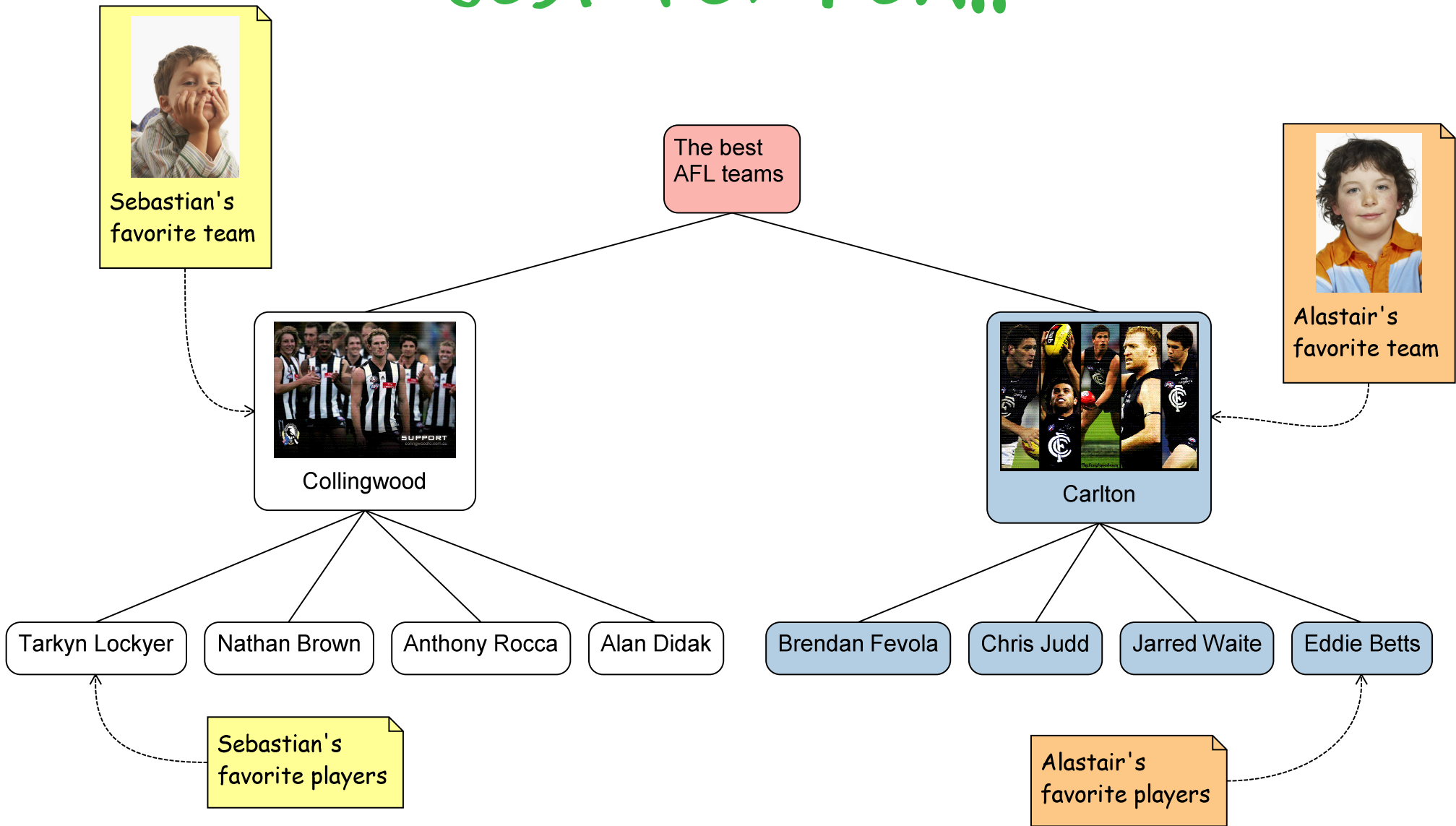
Finally, it is clear that There should be more public transport given it would be better for the environment. This reason is supported by the contention that public transport produces less pollution than cars. *[You can put a relevant example or basis for the claim here.]*

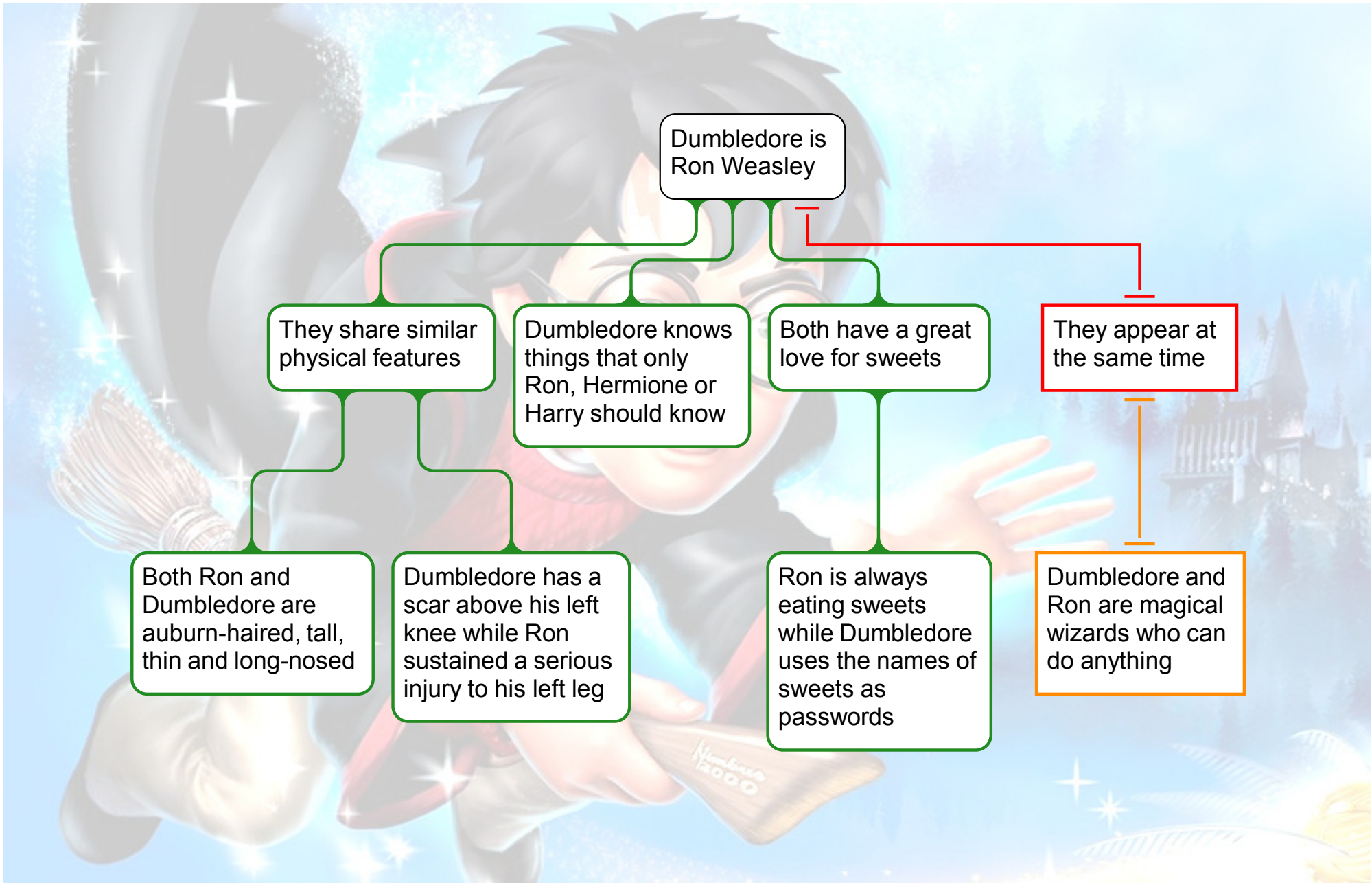
I restate my position that There should be more public transport. I urge you to also adopt this view. *[What would you like people to do about this? Recommend a course of action in keeping with your position that the editor or readers can take to resolve the issue to your satisfaction].*

Yours sincerely,

Communicate

# Just for Fun!!





Dumbledore is Ron Weasley

They share similar physical features

Dumbledore knows things that only Ron, Hermione or Harry should know

Both have a great love for sweets

They appear at the same time

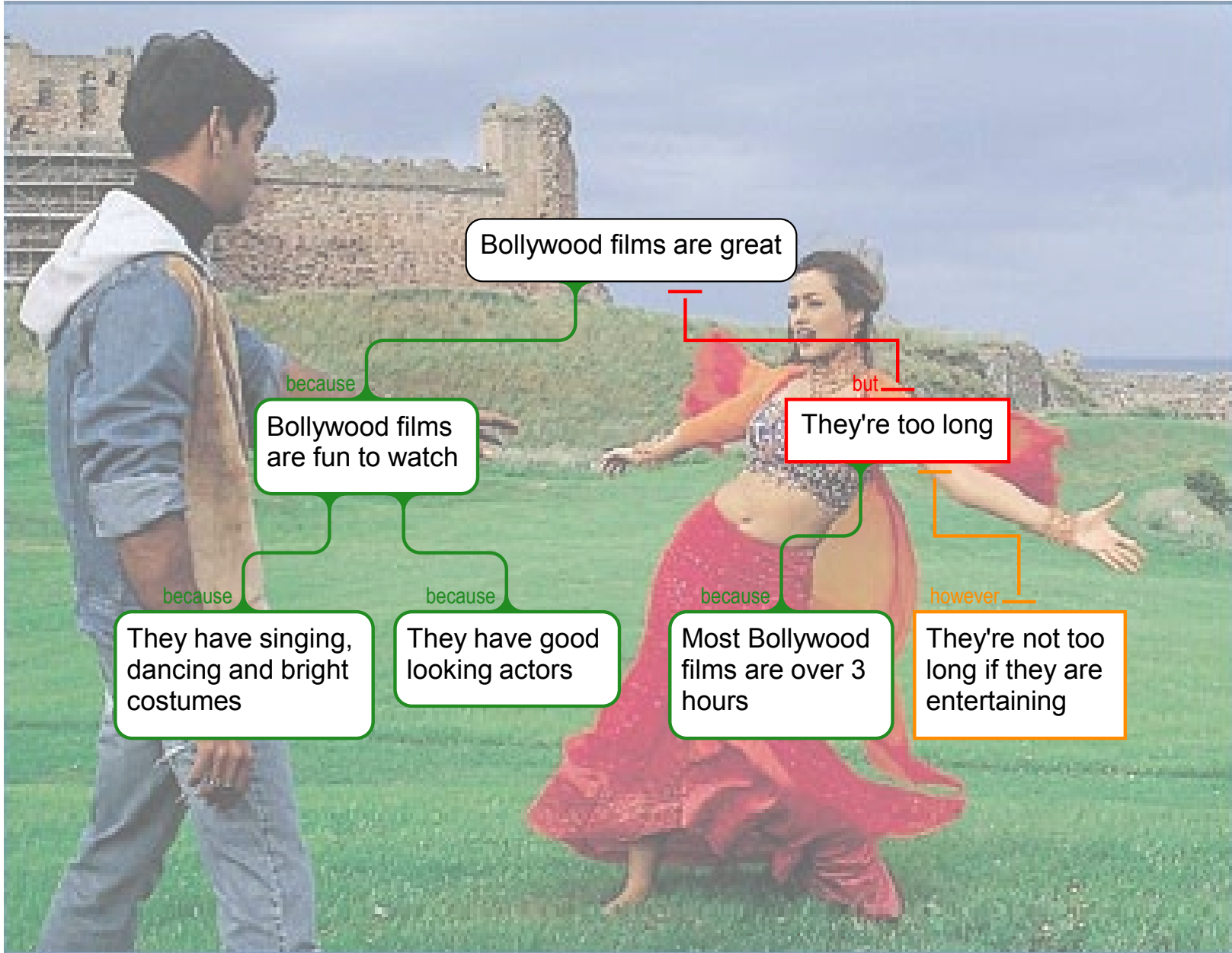
Both Ron and Dumbledore are auburn-haired, tall, thin and long-nosed

Dumbledore has a scar above his left knee while Ron sustained a serious injury to his left leg

Ron is always eating sweets while Dumbledore uses the names of sweets as passwords

Dumbledore and Ron are magical wizards who can do anything





# The Critical Thinking Process

## 1. Gather ideas

Issue: Windfarms - To be or not to be?

Environmental audits have shown the likelihood of wildlife being injured by windfarms is rare

Wind power will be a cheaper energy source once the infrastructure is in place

Windfarms do not add to greenhouse gases

Windfarms are the power solution for the twenty first century

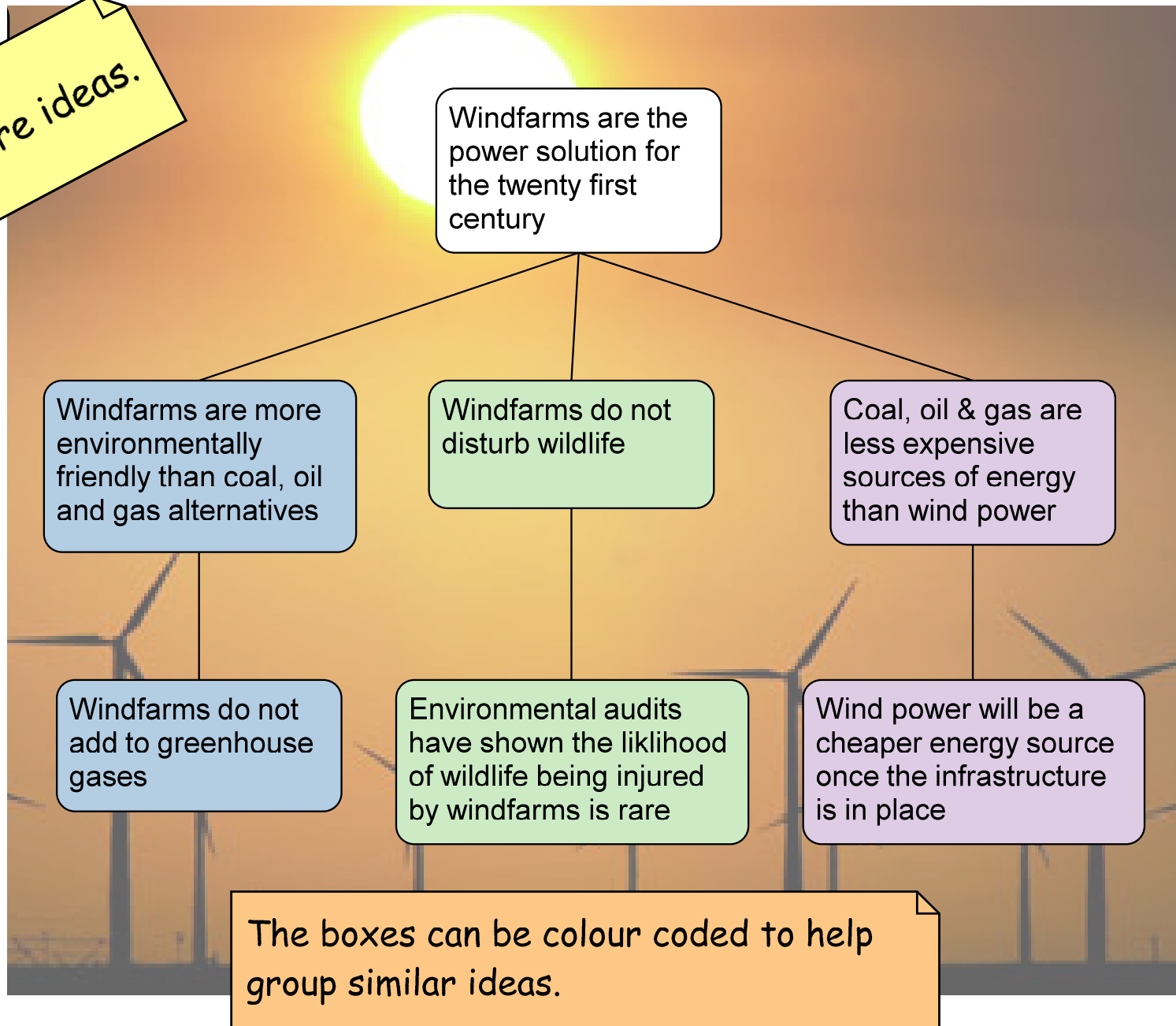
Windfarms are more environmentally friendly than coal, oil and gas alternatives

Coal, oil & gas are less expensive sources of energy than wind power

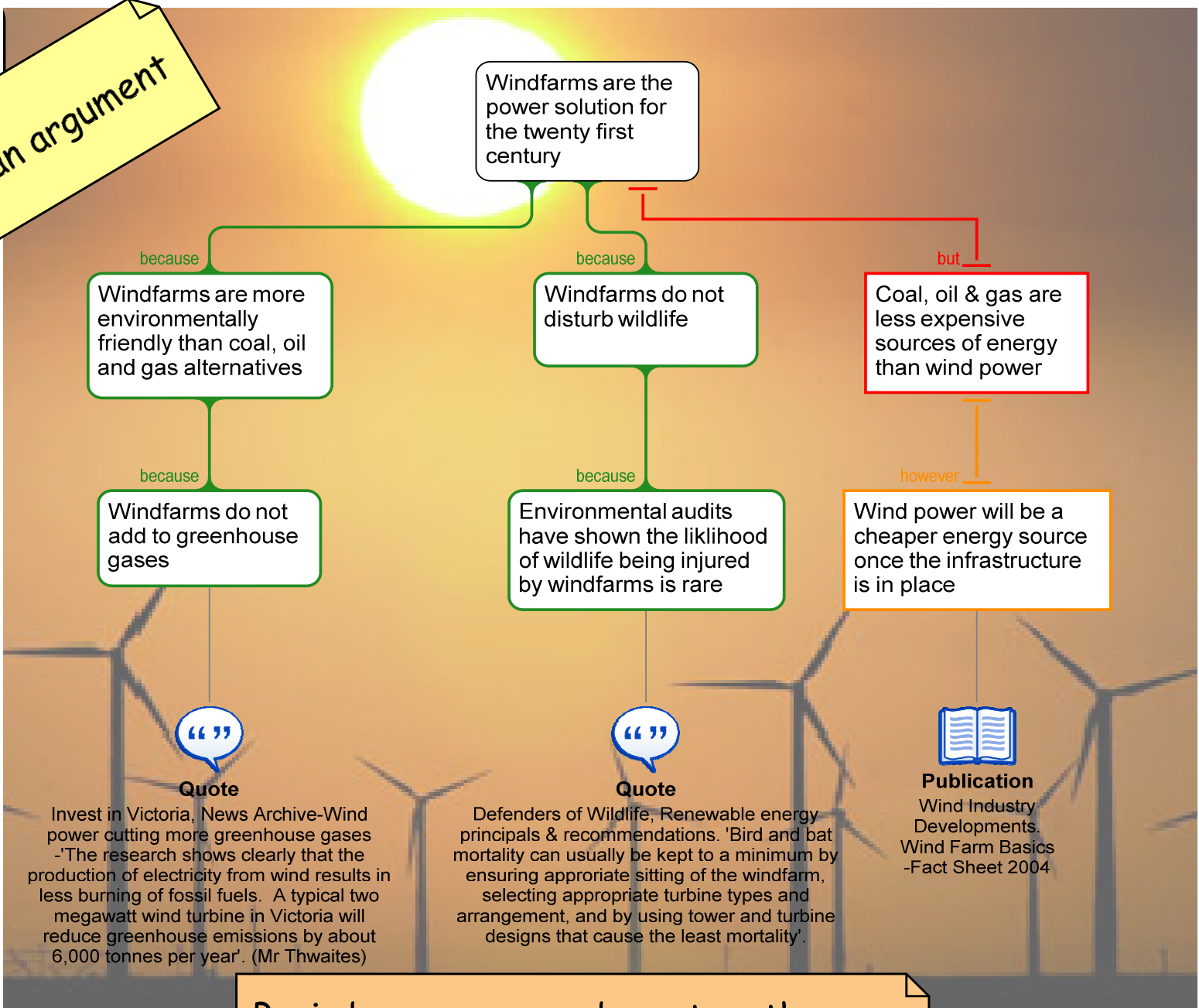
Windfarms do not disturb wildlife



2. Structure ideas.



3. Create an argument



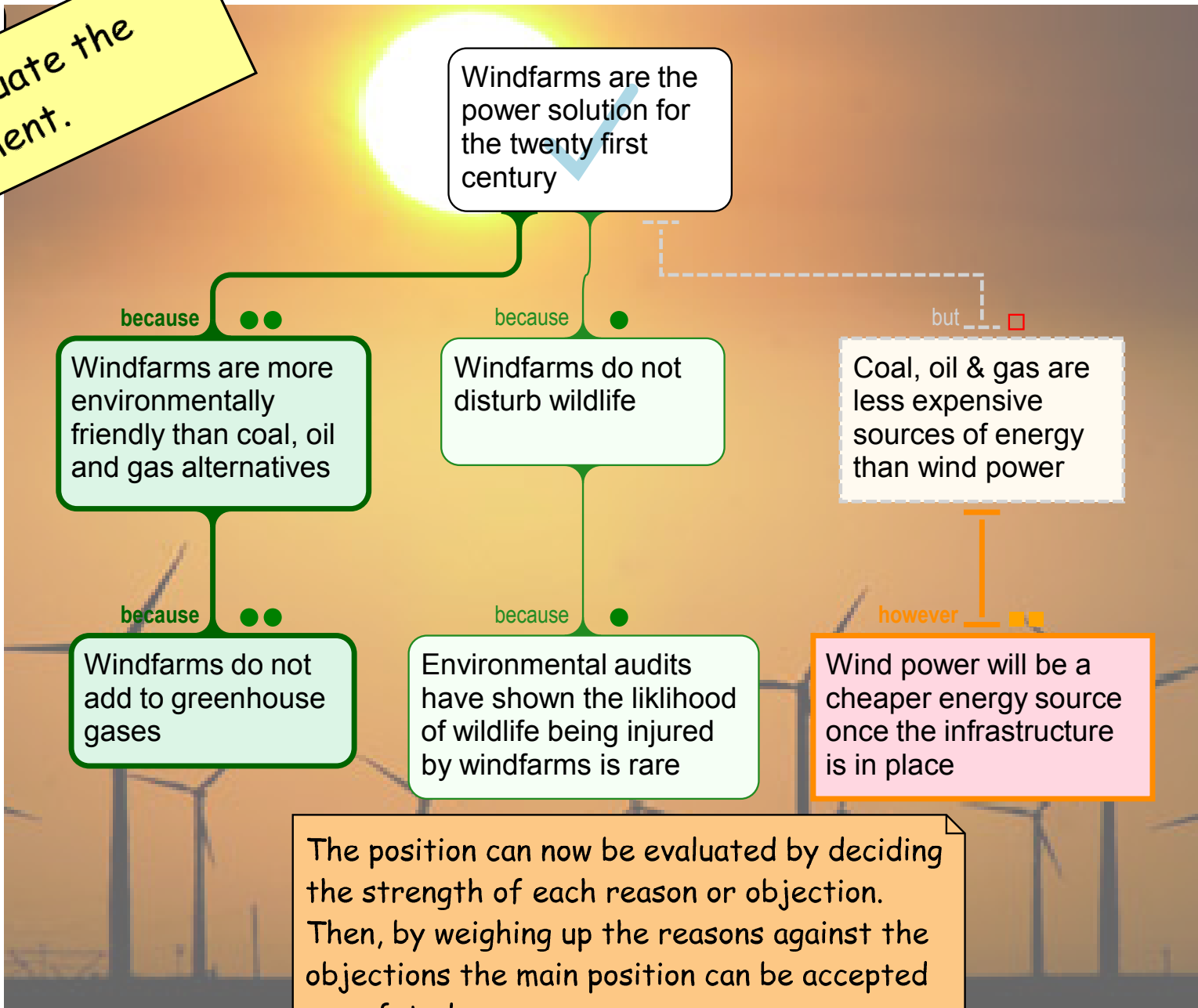
**Quote**  
Invest in Victoria, News Archive-Wind power cutting more greenhouse gases -'The research shows clearly that the production of electricity from wind results in less burning of fossil fuels. A typical two megawatt wind turbine in Victoria will reduce greenhouse emissions by about 6,000 tonnes per year'. (Mr Thwaites)

**Quote**  
Defenders of Wildlife, Renewable energy principals & recommendations. 'Bird and bat mortality can usually be kept to a minimum by ensuring appropriate siting of the windfarm, selecting appropriate turbine types and arrangement, and by using tower and turbine designs that cause the least mortality'.

**Publication**  
Wind Industry Developments. Wind Farm Basics -Fact Sheet 2004

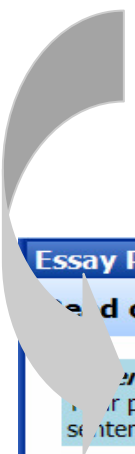
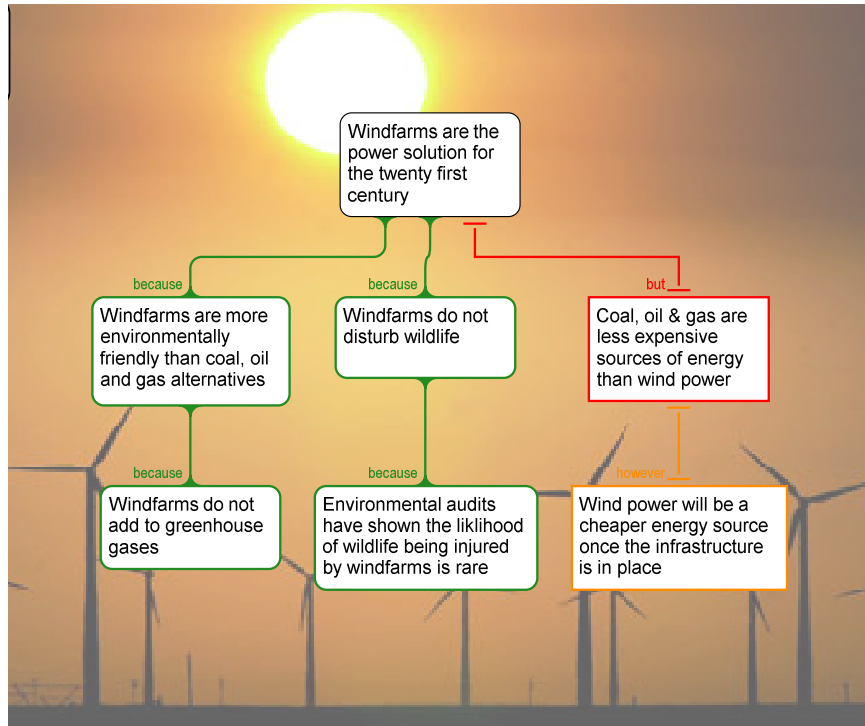
Basis boxes can now be put on the map to show the source of the information.

4. Evaluate the argument.



The position can now be evaluated by deciding the strength of each reason or objection. Then, by weighing up the reasons against the objections the main position can be accepted or refuted.

5. Transform your map into a draft essay.



**Essay Preview**

**Read only)** Export... ?

**State your position**  
Your position is your view or opinion on the issue you are considering. State your position clearly in a single sentence. [More help](#)

**Windfarms are the power solution for the twenty first century.** There are two main reasons supporting this position, and the main objection to it can be rebutted.

The first reason is that Wind farms are more environmentally friendly than coal, oil and gas alternatives, since Wind farms do not add to greenhouse gases.

The second reason to think that **Windfarms are the power solution for the twenty first century** is that Windfarms do not disturb wildlife. This is because Environmental audits have shown that the likelihood of wildlife being injured by wind farms is rare.

On the other hand, a consideration against the idea that **Windfarms are the power solution for the twenty first century** is that Coal, oil & gas are less expensive sources of energy than wind

## 6. Write your essay

Export the essay to a word document which has tips for completing it and a checklist.

**[Type your title here]**

**[Type your name here]**

*[Begin by giving some background. Why are you discussing this topic? Does it relate to someone else's discussion, for example a newspaper report?]*

Windfarms are the solution for the twenty first century. There are two main reasons supporting this position, and the main objection to it can be rebutted.

The first reason is that windfarms are more environmentally friendly than coal, oil and gas alternatives, since windfarms do not add to green house gases. *[You can put a relevant example or an explanation of this here, or provide further evidence for it. Do you have a source, reference or a quote you can use?]*

The second reason to think that windfarms are the solution for the twenty first century is that Windfarms do not disturb wildlife. This is because Environmental audits have shown that the likelihood of wildlife being injured by wind farms is rare. *[You can put a relevant example or an explanation of this here, or provide further evidence for it. Do you have a source, reference or a quote you can use?]*

On the other hand, a consideration against the idea that Windfarms are the solution for the twenty first century is that Coal, oil & gas are less expensive sources of energy than wind power. *[If you can think of someone who has made this claim refer to him/her. You may even provide a quote.]* This objection is not convincing, however, because Wind power will be a cheaper energy source once the infrastructure is in place. *[You can put a relevant example or an explanation of this here, or provide further evidence for it. Do you have a source, reference or a quote you can use?]*

Based on this reasoning it is clear that Windfarms are the solution for the twenty first century. *[Can you think of any changes in circumstances that would make you reconsider your position? Describe them and explain why and how your position might change.]*

- I have corrected spelling, grammar and punctuation.**
- I have made sure that all my sentences make sense.**
- I have checked with my teacher that this essay is appropriate for this subject.**
- I have followed the relevant guidelines to complete my essay.**
- I have typed my essay title and my name at the top of the page.**
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**Rationale: [www.RationaleOnline.com](http://www.RationaleOnline.com)**

**Rationale is a program of REASONINGLAB**

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Page 9 <http://www.mypets.net.au>

Page 23 <http://carltonfc.com.au>; <http://collingwoodfc.com.au>

Page 24 [http://img.qj.net/uploads/articles\\_module/91498/Harry\\_Potter\\_qjgenth.jpg](http://img.qj.net/uploads/articles_module/91498/Harry_Potter_qjgenth.jpg)

Page 25 [www.textually.org](http://www.textually.org)

Page 26-30 <http://usinfo.state.gov>

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