

## Four-Square Writing Method: Step-by-Step

### Materials Needed:

- A blank sheet of paper
- A pencil or pen

### Step 1: Fold Your Paper

1. Fold your paper in half vertically and horizontally so it's divided into four equal sections (quadrants).
2. In the **center of the paper**, there will be an extra box for your **introduction**. The four quadrants around this center box will hold the other parts of your writing.

### Step 2: Label the Sections

- **Center Box:** Introduction
- **Top Left Quadrant:** First Reason + Evidence + Reasoning
- **Top Right Quadrant:** Second Reason + Evidence + Reasoning
- **Bottom Left Quadrant:** Third Reason + Evidence + Reasoning
- **Bottom Right Quadrant:** Conclusion

### Step 3: Write in Each Section

#### Center Box (Introduction):

This is where students will write their opinion and create an introductory sentence.

#### What to Do:

- Start with a sentence that shows your opinion.
- Briefly introduce the topic and what you're going to write about.

#### Guided Instructions:

- Use phrases like:
  - "I believe..."
  - "In my opinion..."
  - "I think..."
- Introduce your opinion and list your three reasons briefly.

**Example:** *I believe the internet is the most important invention because it completely changed how people communicate, learn, and shop.*

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### Top Left Quadrant (First Reason + Evidence + Reasoning):

#### What to Do:

- Write your first reason for supporting your opinion.
- Back up your reason with **evidence** from the text.
- After adding your evidence, provide **reasoning** that explains how the evidence supports your reason.

#### Guided Instructions:

- Start with phrases like:
  - "One reason is that..."
  - "The first reason is..."
- Use evidence from the text to support your reason:
  - "According to the text..."
  - "The evidence shows..."
- After giving the evidence, add **reasoning**:
  - "This shows that..."
  - "This is important because..."

**Example:** *One reason the internet is the most important invention is that it made communication much faster. The text says that before the internet, people had to rely on slower methods like letters and phone calls. This shows that the internet changed how quickly people could connect with each other, making communication easier.*

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### Top Right Quadrant (Second Reason + Evidence + Reasoning):

#### What to Do:

- Write your second reason.
- Support it with **evidence** from the text.
- Add **reasoning** to explain how the evidence supports your second reason.

#### Guided Instructions:

- Start with phrases like:
  - "Another reason is that..."
  - "The second reason is..."
- Use text-based evidence with phrases like:
  - "The text explains..."
  - "The evidence shows..."
- After giving evidence, add **reasoning**:
  - "This means that..."

- "This helps because..."

**Example:** *Another reason the internet is important is that it makes learning new things easier. The text explains that people can now access information instantly, which was much harder before. This means that the internet has made education more accessible, helping people learn more quickly.*

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### **Bottom Left Quadrant (Third Reason + Evidence + Reasoning):**

#### **What to Do:**

- Write your third reason.
- Support it with **evidence** from the text.
- Add **reasoning** to explain how the evidence supports your third reason.

#### **Guided Instructions:**

- Use phrases like:
  - "A third reason is that..."
  - "The text also says..."
- Use evidence from the text with phrases like:
  - "The text shows..."
  - "The evidence says..."
- After adding the evidence, include **reasoning**:
  - "This proves that..."
  - "This shows why..."

**Example:** *A third reason the internet is the most important invention is that it changed how people shop. The text says that people can buy things online and have them delivered, which saves time. This proves that the internet has improved convenience in daily life by making it easier to purchase things without going to stores.*

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### **Bottom Right Quadrant (Conclusion):**

#### **What to Do:**

- Write a conclusion that summarizes your opinion and your three reasons.

#### **Guided Instructions:**

- Use phrases like:
  - "In conclusion..."
  - "To sum up..."

- Restate your opinion and briefly mention the three reasons.

**Example:** *In conclusion, the internet is the most important invention because it has changed how people communicate, learn, and shop.*

#### **Step 4: Putting It All Together**

Once students have written in all five sections (introduction and four quadrants), they can turn the ideas into a full, organized paragraph. This updated version encourages students to not only state their reasons and provide evidence but also explain (through reasoning) how that evidence supports their opinion.