

Maintaining Continuity with your Manuscript-

Use the “Mapping” Technique to Keep Track of your Own Content

Purpose: Now that you have written some content, you can map out your content to remind yourself of what you wanted to do and keep with those goals as you continue to write chapters. Return to your written chapters and list these points. Repeat this process with each of your existing chapters.

Function Outline Worksheet (Clark 96)

1. State the overall purpose or main point of the chapter. Main Point or Overall Purpose in the Chapter:

2. Skim the chapter, highlighting the main supporting ideas. Briefly summarize those ideas:

First Main Point _____

Second Main Point _____

Third Main Point _____

Fourth Main Point _____

Fifth Main Point _____

Sixth Main Point _____

3. Go through the chapter paragraph by paragraph, noting how each one functions to support main or supporting points. As you read, think about the following questions: Does the paragraph develop a main point? Does it provide background material? Is it an example? Does it present a counterargument? Find keywords in the paragraph that refer back to the main purpose of the chapter and to the overall theme of the thesis/dissertation.

4. Having examined every section of your chapter in terms of function, note which ones need modification or elaboration. Do you need explanatory sentences or additional evidence to support your main ideas?