

WRITING INFORMATION

WORKSHEET 1: QUESTIONING THE TOPIC

As we saw in the lesson, the most successful writing about information starts with organising your ideas about the topic. You need to do some thinking **before** you start the research.

The method recommended in the lesson is the QUESTION and ANSWER technique:

- Ask a series of **QUESTIONS** about the topic (eg Dinosaurs: How long ago did they live? How many were there? How big were they? Why did they die out? etc)
- Then find the **ANSWERS** to those questions!

The beauty of this method is that you don't just read everything you can on the topic. You read in a controlled way, *looking for answers to your questions*. It is very targeted research.

ACTIVITY 1

Choose one of the following topics, and write out as many questions as you can about the topic (using the Dinosaur model as guide).

- 1) Endangered animal species
- 2) The most important people in history
- 3) A healthy lifestyle
- 4) Alternative sources of energy
- 5) Successful communication
- 6) Robots and artificial intelligence
- 7) The history of computers
- 8) Protecting the environment

ACTIVITY 2

- 1) Now go off and do your research on your topic, making sure that you find answers to each of your questions. Make notes as needed.
- 2) Using your notes (the answers you have found to your questions), write up the informative piece. We strongly suggest you use headings (and subheadings), which can be, if you wish, the questions you started with. When finished, share your writing with the class.