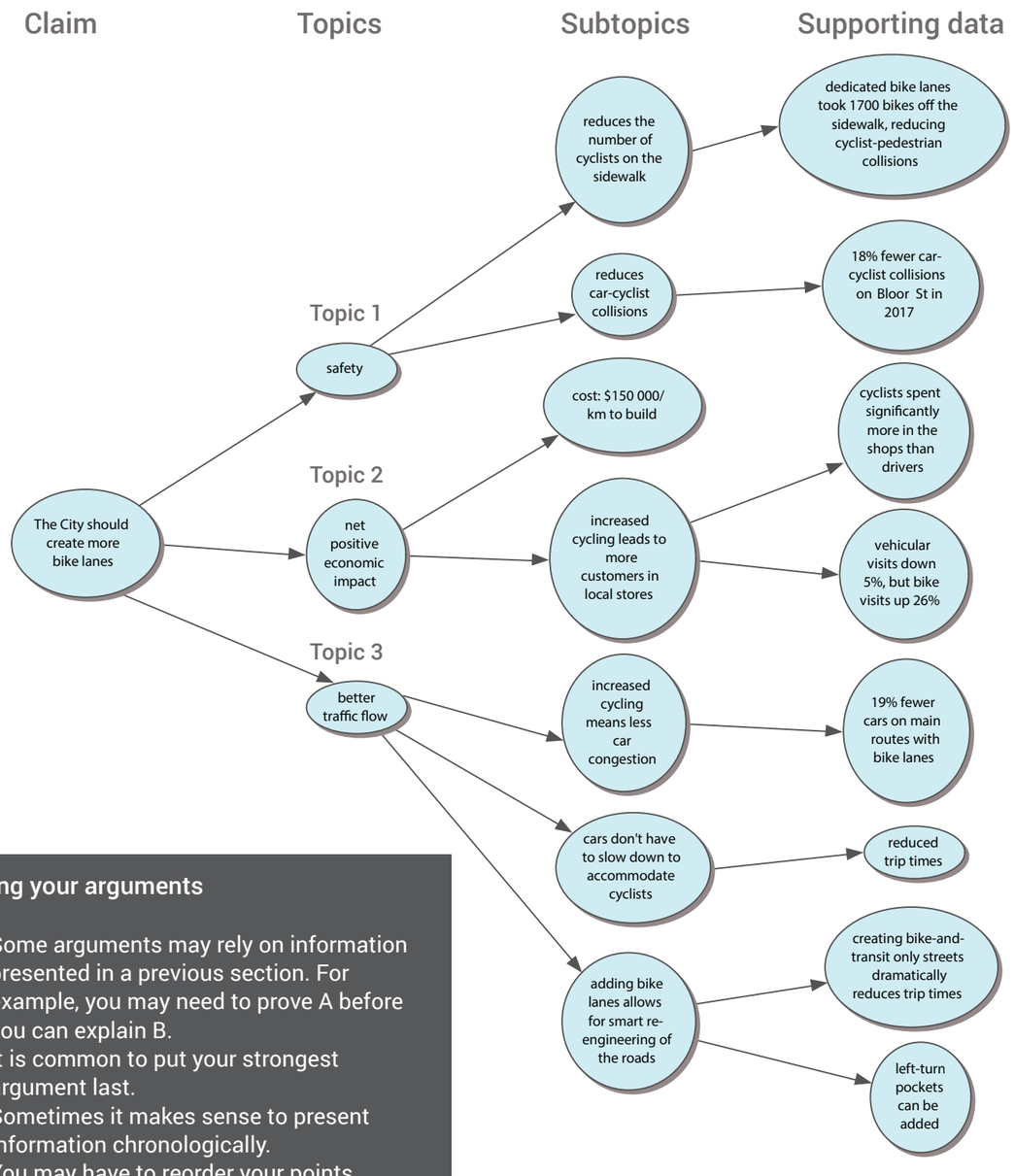
TWO WAYS TO CREATE AN OUTLINE: GRAPHIC AND LINEAR

Graphic Outline



Arranging your arguments

- Some arguments may rely on information presented in a previous section. For example, you may need to prove A before you can explain B.
- It is common to put your strongest argument last.
- Sometimes it makes sense to present information chronologically.
- You may have to reorder your points several times during the writing process.

Linear Outline

Claim — **The City should create more bike lanes**

Topic 1 — **1. safety**

Subtopic Supporting data

A. reduces the number of cyclists on the sidewalk
   i. dedicated bike lanes took 1700 bikes off the sidewalk, reducing cyclist pedestrian collisions

Subtopic Supporting data

B. reduces car-cyclist collisions
   i. 18% fewer car-cyclist collisions on Bloor St in 2017

Topic 2 — **2. net positive economic impact**

Subtopic

A. cost: $150 000/km to build

Subtopic Supporting data

B. increased cycling leads to more customers in local stores
   i. vehicular visits down 5%, but bike visits up 26%
   ii. cyclists spent significantly more in the shops than drivers

Topic 3 — **3. better traffic flow**

Subtopic Supporting data

A. increased cycling means less car congestion
   i. 19% fewer cars on main routes with bike lanes

Subtopic Supporting data

B. cars don't have to slow down to accommodate cyclists
   i. reduced trip times

Subtopic Supporting data Supporting data

C. adding bike lanes allows for smart re-engineering of the roads
   i. left-turn pockets can be added
   ii. creating bike-and-transit only streets dramatically reduces trip times