



Recount Writing

SPCA Education

Informed by *First Steps Writing Resource Book*, Education Department of Western Australia 1997

What is the purpose of a recount?



The purpose of a recount is to list and describe past experiences by retelling events in the order in which they happened (chronological order).

Recounts are written to retell events with the purpose of either informing or entertaining their audience (or both).

What are some real life examples of recount writing?

- Newspaper articles
- Police recounts
- Insurance claims
- Letters
- Diaries
- Biographies
- Recounts of learning experiences, e.g. science experiments
- Historical recounts, e.g. family trees
- Recounts of events
- Minutes from meetings



Structure of a recount

How should a recount be structured?

- Plan by thinking '**Who? What? When? Where? Why?**'
- **Start with an orientation paragraph** that informs the reader about the content of the recount.
- **Recount events in chronological order** (draw a flow chart to help sequence events).
- **Recount events that are significant** and those that amuse the reader.
- **Use connectives** that signal time, e.g. then, next, meanwhile, finally, etc.
- Write as if you are telling the story but **always use the past tense**.
- **End with a closing statement** that comments on the events.



Features of a recount

What are the features of a recount?

- Write in **first or third person** by using words like:
 - first person: **I, we**
 - third person: **he, she, they**
- Write mainly in the **past tense**.



Writer's knowledge

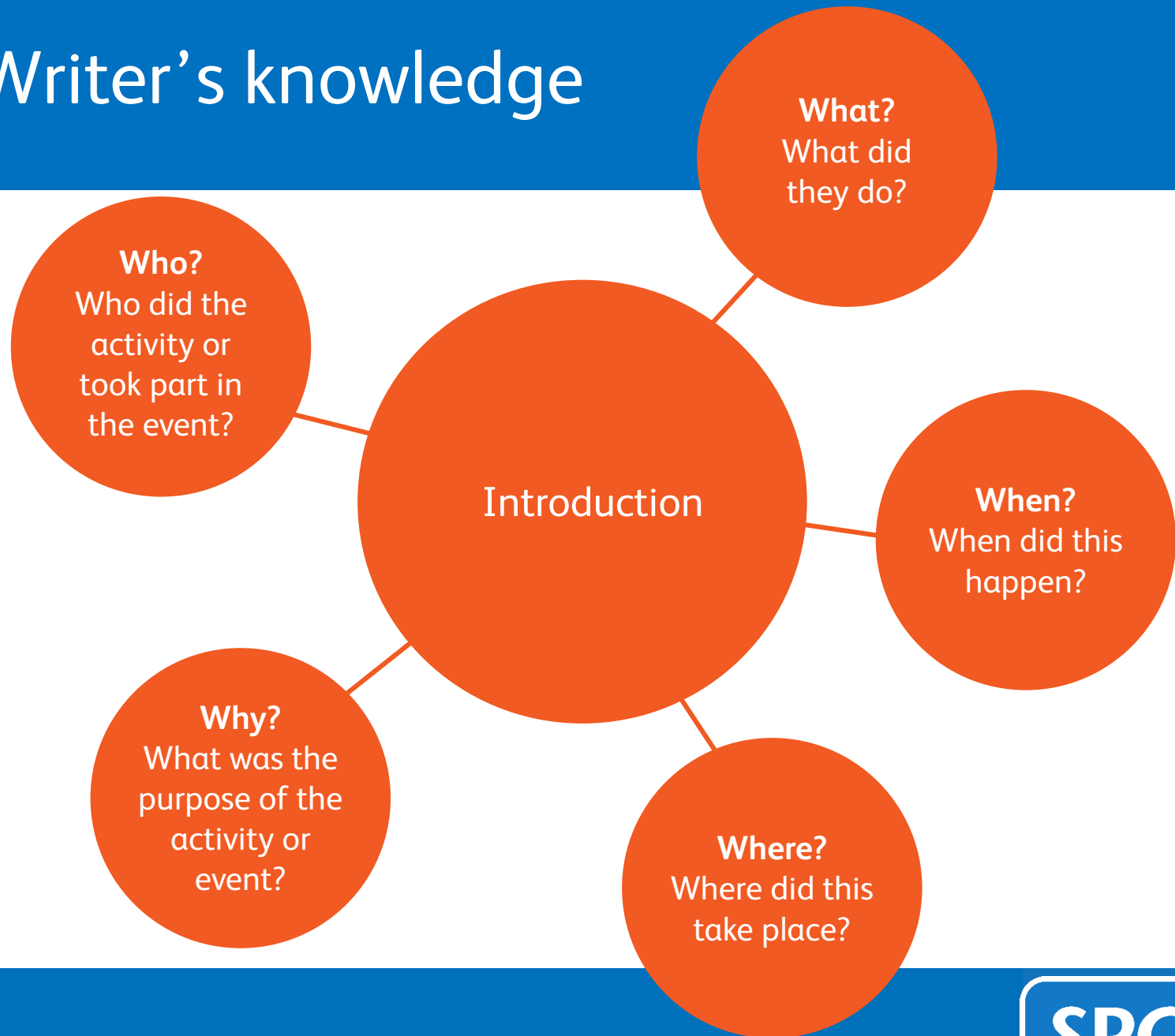
Writer's knowledge

- Write a **clear introduction** for the reader.
- Write things **in the order in which they happened**.
- Use **connecting words and phrases** to help the reader
e.g. A few minutes later, meanwhile, afterwards.
- Use **adjectives** to help create a picture in the reader's head.
- Use **powerful verbs** to describe the action in the story .
- **Describe the feelings** of the person telling the story at different points.

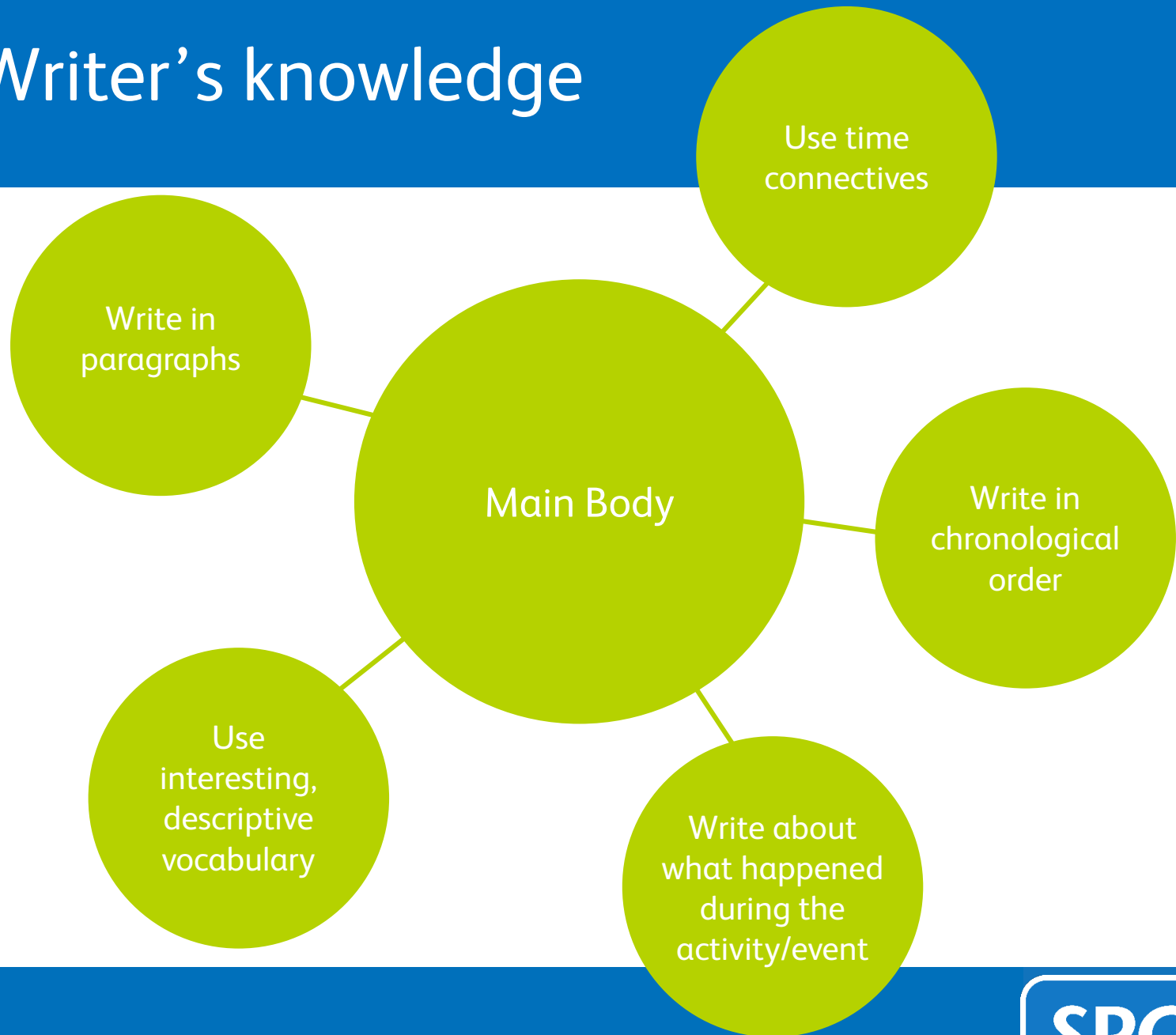


Writer's knowledge continued

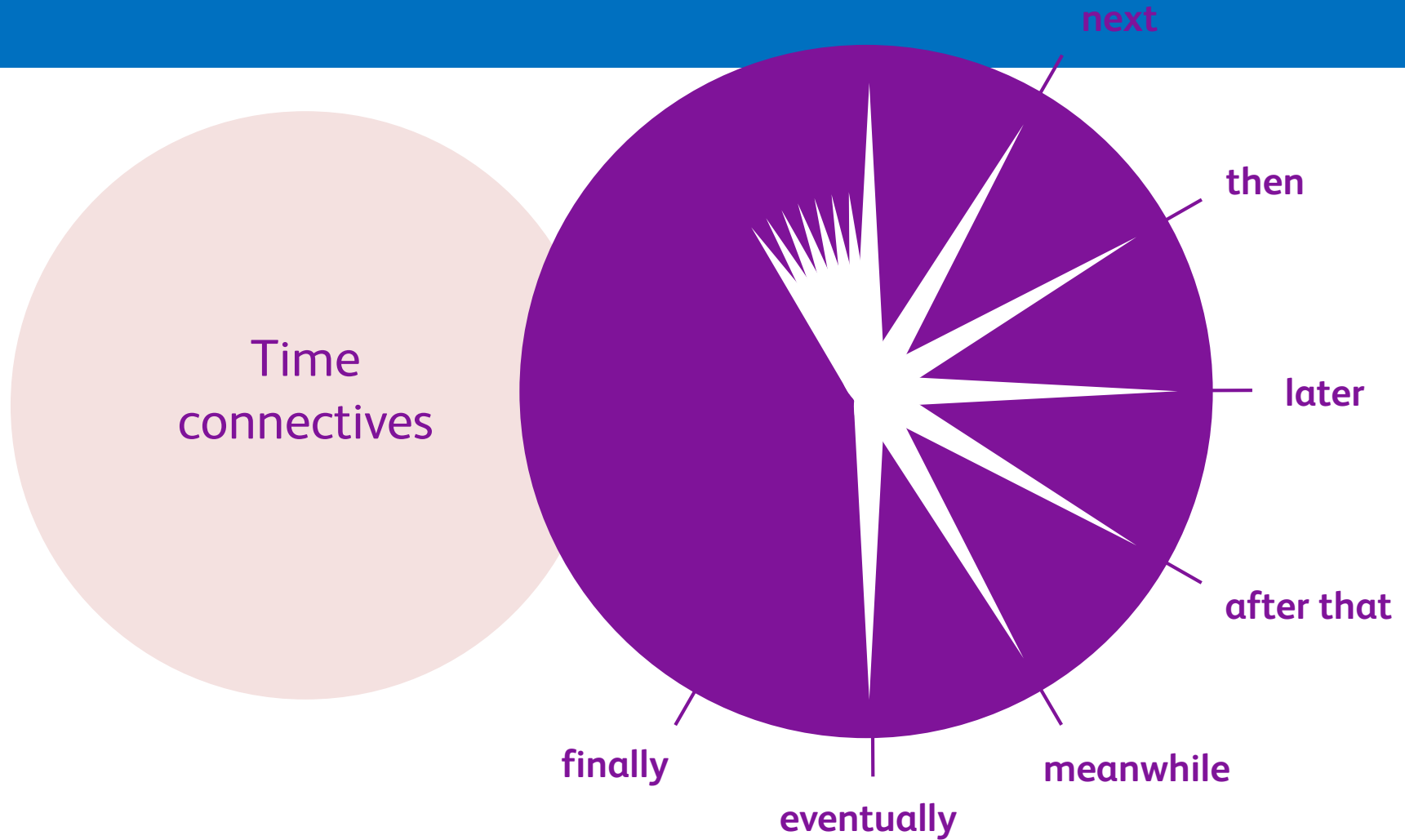
Writer's knowledge



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