

Paragraph construction

The SEC model

An example question

Let's suppose that you're preparing to write an essay to support the thesis that:

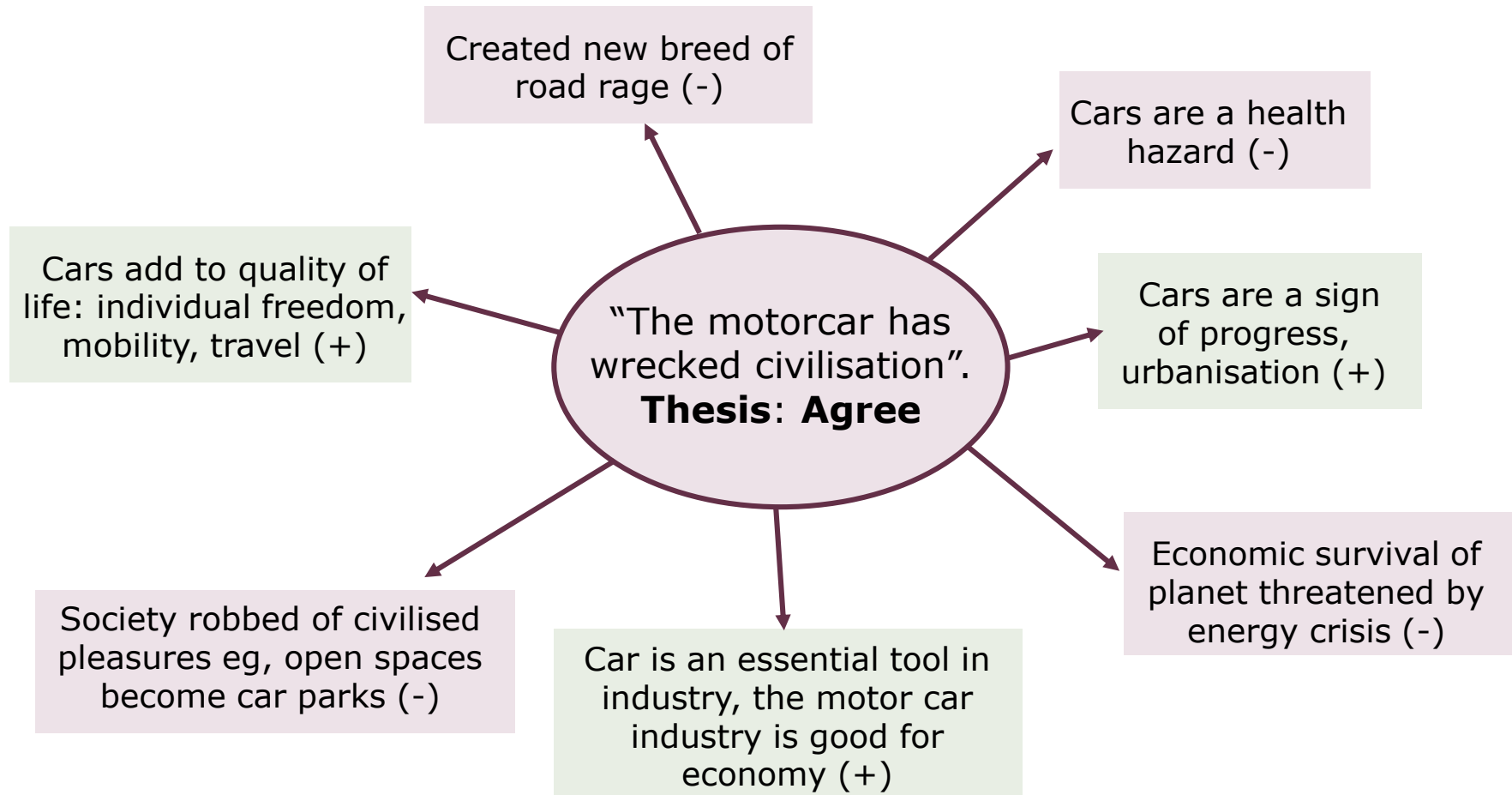
"The motorcar has wrecked civilisation."

You draw a **map** of your ideas.

The negative ideas will support your thesis, but in any argument essay, you do need to consider the ideas that oppose your thesis.

That is why your **map** contains both positive and negative points.

Your map of ideas



The first body paragraph

One of the costs that society has to pay for the conveniences brought by the motor industry is the loss of the civilised pleasures associated with open green spaces. Indeed, the motorcar, far from being a mere vehicle, is determining the design and organisation of whole cities. It is true that cars allow urban centres to function more efficiently, providing transport for workers and industry. Indeed, cars are often recognised as symbols of progress of a modern society. However, they are also the single largest consumers of valuable city space, which in a pre-motorcar world, would be reserved for natural parks and open spaces in which to relax, cultural centres, and public squares where people could meet. In an article published in the third issue of Greenleaf (2008) circulated by the New Zealand Green Party, entitled "Shame on You", Green councillors slammed plans for new car parks. They argued that it was a clear case of "putting cars before people". When the "green infrastructure" of any community is compromised in this way, civilisation is under threat.

S= Statement of main point

E=Expansion by explanation/clarification

E=Expansion by extended argument

E=Expansion by evidence /example (facts, other people's opinions)

C=final Comment