

Tips on essay writing

Read the essay question carefully

- Highlight the keywords of the title.
- Use a dictionary to check unfamiliar words.
- Identify topic word e.g. a character's name.
- Identify limiting words e.g. chapter 2/3 only or 19th century.

Do the relevant reading and research

- Write notes in your own words.
- Only pick information which is relevant to your essay.
- Write down quotes and authors.

Brainstorm Ideas

- Jot down the relevant points.
- Jot down the relevant evidence.
- Use mind maps.

Develop an Idea/argument

- Your essay should have a strong argument running through it – that answers the question.
- You need to prove that thought and research has been put into answering the question.
- The essence of your argument has to be stated in the introduction and has to be referred to throughout the essay. Again it has to be reinforced in the conclusion.

Write a plan for your response

- Order your ideas in a logical way.
- Make sure all points are relevant to the questions.
- The plan should give directions to your essays.

Write an introduction

- Introduce your essay.
- Open up the discussion; imply how you are going to angle/answer the question.
- Engage the reader.

Main body

- Each point needs a new paragraph.

- Use phrases that link the last paragraph to the new paragraph. For example “however”, “moreover”.
- Start each paragraph with a sentence that links to the essay title. Use words or phrases from the title. Keep referring to the title.
- Provide supporting evidence for each point you make.

Conclusion

- Summarise main ideas.
- Show how you have proven your argument in the essay.
- Finish with a relevant comment.

Edit and draft

- Your spelling, punctuation and grammar needs to be correct.
- Remove any sections that are not relevant.
- Improve and choose better vocab.
- Ask someone to glance over your work giving constructive critics.

Write up final copy

- Write quotes on a new line.
- Write your final version in a neat and tidy manner.
- Hand all assignments in on time.

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