

Writing Essays

Essays Aim to:

Discuss and/or argue in clear appropriate language.

Essays require:

- Clear presentation and critical thinking in relation to the discussion/argument
- An introduction body and conclusion
- Formal style
- Careful proofreading and clear presentation

Content and understanding are important so ask yourself these questions:

1. Do I really understand what the question asks me to do?
2. Have I done any preliminary planning of my major points?
3. From reading the first sentence of my answer, does the reader know both what the question is and how I will develop my answer?
4. Do the major points stand out?
5. Are the major points supported with examples and facts?
6. Are there clear transitions between the major points?
7. Would someone who has not taken this class be able to understand the concept discussed in the way I explained it?
8. Have I completely covered all major points needed to answer the question?
9. Did I stick to the question?
10. Did I proofread for misspelled words, sentence fragments, run-on sentences, comma splices, subject-verb or pronoun/antecedent agreement errors, and other errors that might prevent the reader from understanding what I have written?
11. Have I concluded with a summary statement?
12. Is my handwriting readable and have I left enough space for comments or additions?

Open the more detailed 'Writing an Essay' resource for more information and ideas.

TIP: Use a wiki to draft your essay – this will allow you to invite others, including your teacher, to review or collaborate. You can collect ideas, images, references and other resources you need to plan and write your essay. Check out the wiki Workout Guide.

