

# Essay Planning

In order to make writing an essay less challenging it is advisable to create an essay plan. This will give you structure and guidelines which you can follow as you write.

## Analysing the Question

This allows you to look at the question and make sure you understand what is being asked, you can achieve this by highlighting keywords to help you break the question down.

Before you can begin to select material for your essay, you need to make sure that you understand the exact requirements of the question. The following method of title analysis encourages you to break the question down into clearly identifiable elements so that you can accurately see what the question requires.

Instruction: Compare and contrast

Subject: forms of rural settlement in at least two European regions in the later middle ages.

Key aspect: forms of rural settlement

Other significant words: in at least two European regions in the later middle ages.

[www2.le.ac.uk/offices/ssds/sd/ld/resources/dept/occ-psyc/planning-essays](http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/ssds/sd/ld/resources/dept/occ-psyc/planning-essays)

Once you know what you are being asked to do, jot down what you already know about the subject and what you need to find out.

**The Library**  
<http://library.northamptoncollege.ac.uk>

## PLANNING

- Find the planning method that best suits you
- Mind maps are a great way to put down all of your ideas they also enable you to link points



- Or you might prefer using **bullet points** which allow you to structure and list your points
- Briefly outline what you are going to include in your Introduction, Main Body and Conclusion of your essay
- If you tend to write too much cut down on the individual points within your essay plan
- If you find you don't write enough try to expand the points within your plan
- Remember your plan is an outline, your ideas may change as you begin to write or carry out more research.. Once you have a plan you can adapt it and see where new ideas fit in as you write.