

Essay Writing

This handout is aimed at giving you advice on writing your essay

- Before you start ensure that you start your essay early, especially if you need to do reading and research before you begin to write.
- Do you fully understand the question? Highlight keywords within the title, to develop your understanding of what the question is asking.
- As you are reading highlight and make notes of any key points whilst beginning to consider how you could join the information together.
- Read essays completed in previous years, this will help you to understand, how to organise and present your essay.
Consider... How does the author introduce the topic?
 How does the author develop their ideas?
- Keep an ongoing record of quotes and their sources, which maybe of use within your essay. Use the correct Harvard System for referencing these sources. (See staff for more details.)

Drafting your Essay.

- Write a quick draft all the way through. This will allow you to get your ideas down quickly and leave you enough time to review and rewrite.
- Once your first draft is complete consider whether you need to rearrange the structure. If you are unsure that your ideas are flowing, try reading your essay out loud, in this way mistakes can be easier to pick up.
- When finished, print out your work and cross out any words which are not needed. This should increase the clarity of your writing.

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



- Ask a friend or relative to read over your work for common simple mistakes which you may have missed.
- Finish your essay with a summative and confident sentence or a question for future research.
- Essay writing requires- **Creative Thinking**- broadening of your ideas.
Critical Thinking- Provide explanations to why your examples are so important to your argument.

Structure of the essay:

Introduction: Introduce the topic areas of the essay with a general broad opening sentence, then provide a summary of your essay, telling the reader what you expect to find, what your argument is.

Body: Consists of paragraphs, which each form a building block in the construction of your argument.

1. Answer the question by developing a discussion.
2. Illustrate your knowledge and understanding of your reading.
3. Offer evidence to develop your arguments through the use of authoritative quotes.

Ensure that you are not just describing something rather than discussing, explaining or analysing it.

Conclusion: re-state the answer to the question, summarising the main points.
 Include a final statement, with possible suggestions for further research.
 Do not introduce new information or ideas it is simply a summing up of the essay.

Reference List and Bibliography

Paragraphs: Are related group of sentences which develop one main idea.

Topic sentence: state the main fact or controlling data.

Supporting sentence: explain and develop the point that you are making.

Evidence: support what you have written using evidence from your reading.

Analysis: analyse and interpret the evidence. Comment on its implication, significance and impact.

Conclusion: finally create a critical conclusion from the evidence or a transition to next paragraph.