

# SWAP EAST

## Study Skills Event

### Arts, Humanities, Social Sciences and Nursing

### Now to write the essay!



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# THINKING ABOUT THE CRITERIA aka KNOW YOUR ENEMY...

## TASK

- What do you think we look for in an essay at undergraduate level?

*You can add your ideas to the chatbox OR put your digital hand up and chat to me!*

# The academic criteria



Knowledge



Argument and analysis



Language and expression



Scholarly/academic apparatus

So, how do I  
fulfill those  
criteria?

Create *your*  
process



Assess the  
question



Critical  
thinking



Planning



Writing



Editing





# Engaging with the question

**TASK:** How are these two undergraduate level essay questions different?

1. Discuss the causes of war in *Anthony and Cleopatra* by William Shakespeare.
2. To what extent did food shortages provoke the start of the French Revolution?

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# Question interrogation tactics

- What does the question mean?
- Am I equipped to answer this question? Ask yourself this one after you have given yourself a chance to do some research!
- Does this question play to my strengths?

# Brainstorming and planning



Do the research  
Use your reading list  
and reputable  
academic resources



Planning improves  
structuring, flow and  
relevance



Gather your ideas  
together– mind map,  
B/M/E plan, P by P



It also helps you to  
write more  
confidently



# Beginning your essay

## **TASK:**

- Why is the introduction to an essay important?

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to me!*

# The role of the introduction



It establishes a road map for your essay i.e. let your reader how you are going to address the topic.



It sets your style and establishes for the reader the kind of writer that you are.



It establishes you as a confident writer who is in charge of the essay material.

Is this a good  
introduction?

‘From the beginning, Pip’s struggles for gentility are overshadowed by a sense of his own criminality.’ To what extent is *Great Expectations* a novel about the interlinking of crime and respectability?

*Great Expectations* is a novel set in Victorian era. We follow main character Pip on his journey through life and discovers true values in life. His journey, however, is not a simple one. He comes to money but loses much more. He is good sympathetic character but sometimes he struggles to recognise what’s important in life.



# Keep your focus...



Don't let your middle get wobbly, maintain your focus using topic sentences.



Every paragraph needs at least one topic sentence to show HOW what you are discussing answers the question.



# Ending the essay

## **TASK:**

Why is the conclusion to an essay important?

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# The role of the conclusion



The final impression is important in reminding your reader of your competence and knowledge.



Effective conclusion = solid time management.



Your conclusion can suggest broader implications to your topic.



A good conclusion is usually the appropriate ending to a good essay!

Is this a good  
conclusion?

Using close reference to the first three chapters of the novel, discuss how Dickens develops suspense at the beginning of *Great Expectations*

This essay has shown that through language, characters and setting, Dickens has provided enough suspense that effectively develops the characters and the themes with a view to what's expected next.

Don't forget  
the  
peripherals!



Your style sheet



Your in-essay  
referencing

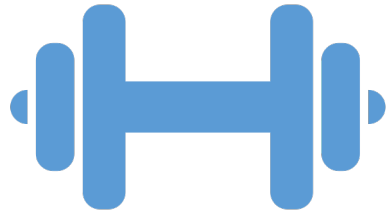


The presentation of  
your bibliography



Spelling, apostrophes  
and grammar...

And remember...



Play to your strengths and  
don't fix your weaknesses.



GOOD LUCK!!



Hope you  
have enjoyed  
this session.  
Thank you!

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