

The Learning Centre

Essay Checklist

Introduction

Clearly expresses the *topic*, *focus* and *scope* of your essay.

Engages reader by using an interesting analogy, startling statistic, intriguing quotation or other captivating technique.

Thesis statement clearly proposes the main argument or point of view of the essay.

Body Paragraphs

Topic sentence clearly states the central point in each paragraph.

Clear *paragraph focus* -- one distinct point per paragraph.

Develops paragraph using specific examples, in-depth analysis, compare and contrast analogies, quotations, etc.

Demonstrate *cohesion* and strong *connections* by:

Integrating transitional words and phrases.

Referring to the central thesis/argument or introducing the next point at the end of a few paragraphs.

For *Research Essay*:

Paragraph points well supported with quotes and paraphrases from research.

All quotes, paraphrases, and summaries are correctly cited using APA, MLA or Chicago Style (per assignment).

Essay includes thoroughly documented *Works Cited* or *References* page using specified documentation style.

Conclusion

Continues to engage and expand *critical thinking* already present in essay.

Provides closure while