Essay Plan

Introduction (5-10% of your word count)

- Introduce your subject.
- Introduce any major points or theories that you will discuss in depth in your essay.
- Include a statement of confidentiality (names have been changed) if using a patient from practice. This must be referenced.
- Introduce brief details of the scenario or patient from practice if this is being used.

Main Essay (80-90% of your word count)

- Paragraphs should be minimum 8 lines and maximum approximately half a page (double spaced).
- Start with your background information and set the scene for the reader. What are the major issues, theories or information the reader needs to understand your essay.
- Write your essay as if the reader has little or no knowledge of the subject.
- Include at least two references or quotes in every paragraph to show that you have evidence for your opinions.
- Academic writing should sound confident so make sure you have read and understood the subject before you write about it. Don’t just include things that ‘sound good’ you need to understand and use the information wisely.
- Try to link your paragraphs so that you are not jumping about between subjects. Your essay should be a persuasive argument that informs the reader, and not just everything you know about a subject.

Conclusion (5-10% of your word count)

- This is a summary of what you have already written.
- It shouldn’t include any new information or anything that you haven’t discussed in your essay already.
- You can reference your points here (author, year) but do not put direct quotes in as this is effectively letting someone else do the talking for you. This should be in your own words.
- A conclusion just jog the readers memory of your main points, you don’t have to include everything from your essay.
- Is it double line spaced?
- Is the formatting reader-friendly?