

Essay Analysis: self-help checklist

Questions, questions, questions...

In the later stages of your assignment writing, take time to ask yourself the following questions about your essay:

Introduction

Is there one?!

Does it begin with a broad outline of the area with which the essay is concerned?

Does it indicate to the reader what the focus of the argument will be?

Does it give an overview of what the essay will contain and how this will be achieved?

Main body – general points

Does it address the assignment title?

Are the themes logically developed throughout the essay?

Is the essay well structured?

Are you convinced by the argument?

How are sources used within the essay?

Conclusion

Is there one?

Are you left with a clear summary of the essay?

Are you aware of the outcome of the argument that the writer has developed?

Is there an attempt to make some original suggestions, e.g., what the writer sees as the 'way forward'?

Overall presentation

Does the writing make grammatical sense?

Are there any spelling errors?

Is it double line spaced?

Is the formatting reader-friendly?

References and use of information

Is it appropriately referenced throughout the text?

Does it follow the conventions of the referencing style set out in your module handbook, for example, Harvard Referencing?

Is there evidence of wider reading (i.e. have you used sources beyond the reading list?)

If you feel that you need help with any aspect of academic writing please get in touch. Either come to the ASK desk, 1st Floor University Library, Ormskirk or telephone 01695 584286. Alternatively, email librarian@edgehill.ac.uk

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