

Essay Analysis: self-help checklist

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 it will be organised?

Main body – general points

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?
- Have the references within the body of the essay been cross-checked against those in the reference list?
- Is there evidence of wider reading (i.e. have you used sources beyond the reading list?)