

VCE AUSTRALIAN AND GLOBAL POLITICS

STUDENT ESSAY PLAN

WHEN CONFRONTED WITH AN ESSAY QUESTION AND A BLANK PAGE, IT'S OFTEN HARD TO KNOW WHERE TO BEGIN. LUCKY WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

The following guide gives you a step-by-step path for writing an essay. Consider it a 'learning tool' or strategy anytime you get stuck with where to start.

1. Note the **key words** of the question. This is what you **must address in your essay**. If you don't, your response could be off the topic and therefore irrelevant to the question.
2. Your **introduction should respond to the question** – you should provide a **contention** (an assertion, a key argument) and the introduction should **outline what you plan to discuss** in the essay.
3. The **main body** of your essay should consist of **paragraphs that address different aspects of the question**. Some good rules for these are:
 - Try to stick to **one idea per paragraph**
 - **Use leading sentences to start** each paragraph and to direct your discussion
 - Also, use **concluding sentences at the ends of paragraphs**.
 - **Provide evidence** to back up your ideas, and **address concepts** along the way
 - Feel free to **pose questions** to develop your analysis
 - Feel free to **recognise the shades of grey** in a question, and the range of views in interpreting events
 - **Use quotes** (and reference them!) for both evidence and highlighting central ideas
4. Your conclusion should **sum up your ideas but not introduce new ones**.

It sounds kind of funny but, in short, the key to writing a well-structured essay is:

- Tell them what you're going to tell them (Introduction)
- Tell them your answer to the question (Main body)
- Then tell them what you told them (Conclusion)

LET'S GET PLANNING! ASK YOURSELF:

1. What are the key words in your essay question?
2. What question is being posed?
3. What are your responses to the question in general terms?
4. List the issues that you think need to be discussed in this question (an issue is an area of contention or debate, differences of opinion about an event, situation or concept).
5. Research them.
6. List the concepts you will need to define during the writing of your essay.
7. Now list, in order, the things you think you should discuss in this essay, (e.g. Explain what the aims of the UN and Oxfam are...)
8. Try writing an introduction of about **150 words**. Make sure that, in the introduction, you:
 - Respond to the question at the beginning with a statement that outlines your ideas
 - Outline what broad areas/issues you plan to address in the essay

Examples of leading sentences:

- In order to discuss the effectiveness of the UN and Oxfam, we need to first explore what the aims of these organisations are...
- Having outlined the aims of the UN and Oxfam, it is now necessary to look at how effective they have been in achieving them...

Examples of concluding sentences:

- Therefore, it has been shown in this discussion that...
- This essay has evaluated the extent to which the UN and Oxfam has been effective in achieving its aims and noted that...

Examples of appreciating shades of grey:

- To some extent it is hard to determine if the UN and Oxfam have been effective because [reason], however it is not possible to make a blanket statement one way or the other; [reason, e.g. demonstrating grey areas].

This plan is based on a template featured on pp.226-228 in the VCE Australian and Global Politics (2nd ed) by Kimberly Cornell and published by Social Education Victoria.

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ESSAY RUBRIC

CRITERIA	PREFORMACE DESCRIPTOR	LEVEL/SCORE
Thesis	<p>4 = easily identifiable, clear and concise, insightful, and appropriate for assignment</p> <p>3 = identifiable, clear, and appropriate</p> <p>2 = somewhat difficult to identify, unclear, and/or slightly inappropriate for assignment</p> <p>1 = very difficult to identify, unclear, and/or inappropriate for assignment</p> <p>0 = unidentifiably, unclear, and/or wholly inappropriate for assignment</p>	
Use of Evidence	<p>4 = appropriate source information (typically primary) used to support thesis and buttress all arguments made in essay, excellent integration of quoted/paraphrased material into writing.</p> <p>3 = appropriate source information used to support thesis and to buttress most arguments, good integration of sources into writing</p> <p>2 = sometimes weak use of source information (excessively secondary), inadequately supports thesis and/or sub-arguments, weak integration of quoted/paraphrased material into writing</p> <p>1 = very weak use of source information (excessively secondary), fails to support thesis and/or sub-arguments, very weak integration of material into writing</p> <p>0 = wholly fails to use sources appropriately</p>	
Analysis, Logic and Argumentation	<p>4 = all ideas progress logically from an identifiable thesis, compelling justifications are offered to support thesis, counter-arguments are anticipated and addressed, appropriate connections are made to outside material</p> <p>3 = thesis is generally supported by logically compelling assertions and appropriate connections</p> <p>2 = insufficient support for some arguments, assertions are vague or lack focus, support offered is sometimes irrelevant, tangential or repetitive</p> <p>1 = lacks support for arguments, unfocused, uses irrelevant information to support thesis</p> <p>0 = wholly fails to relate evidence to thesis statement</p>	
Organisation	<p>4 = coherent and clear, all paragraphs support thesis statement, each paragraph supports its topic sentence, excellent transitions</p> <p>3 = mostly coherent, generally supports thesis, good transitions</p> <p>2 = often lacks coherence, mixed support for thesis, transitions often missing or weak</p> <p>1 = incoherent, lacks support for thesis, transitions weak and often missing</p> <p>0 = wholly incoherent, unsupportive of thesis and lacking in transitions</p>	
Mechanics (Grammar, Spelling, Language Usage, Sentence Structure, Citation Format)	<p>4 = excellent command of language, proper use of grammar/writing conventions, few to no misspelled words, correct word choice, excellent variety and complexity of sentence structure, uses proper citation format</p> <p>3 = good command of language, generally proper use of grammar/writing conventions, minimal misspelled words, largely good word choice, some variety and complexity in sentence structure, generally uses proper citation format</p> <p>2 = generally proper use of grammar/writing conventions, but with simple sentences generally lacking variety/complexity in structure, acceptable citation format</p> <p>1 = weak use of language, poor grammar, and numerous mechanical errors undermine coherence, weak citation format</p> <p>0 = extremely weak use of language/poor grammar, and pervasive errors seriously undermine coherence, improper citation format</p>	
Additional comments		
Score:		

STUDENT WORKSHEET - RESEARCH REPORT

COSMOPOLITANISM: AN INFOGRAPHIC

For this activity, you are going to create an infographic to represent your knowledge of the key term: cosmopolitanism, as well as communicating how Oxfam is an example of a global actor using a cosmopolitan approach.

What is an infographic?

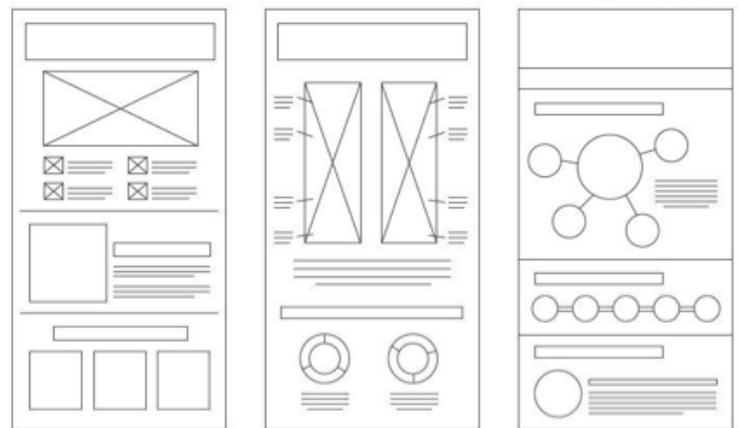
An infographic represents information in a visual and eye-catching manner. It can be a poster or presented on a webpage. An effective infographic should be both appealing and meaningful, allowing the reader to decipher succinct facts without the burden of reading large slabs of text.

Creating your Infographic

You can use a set template (check out Piktochart (piktochart.com) or Canva (www.canva.com) or make up your own using desktop publishing software or similar.

Layout of an infographic

An infographic can comprise a variety of icons, logos, charts, key phrases and visual representations. Here are some suggestions of layouts to inspire your own creation!



Research

Once you have created a template, you should gather the research for your infographic.

You must include the definition of cosmopolitanism near the top of your piece along with further explanation of the term (this could be through related words, quotes, images or any other method you can think of).

Next, compile a number of key facts, using the Oxfam case studies at the following links:

Humanitarian Partnership Agreement: Building community resilience through partnerships: <https://oxfam.box.com/s/tgwjir26u9dxnxd4997smgrc7nc07dym> (environment or action and aid relating to natural and/or human made disasters)

Case study: Helping rice farmers cope with natural disaster (also in above report): <https://sri-lanka.oxfam.org/helping-rice-farmers-cope-natural-disaster-weather-index>

Humanitarian Partnership Agreement overview from the Humanitarian Advisory Group: <http://humanitarianadvisorygroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/HPA-ChroniclePDF7Interactive.pdf>

Vietnam: https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2015-12-CC-case-study_viet_FA.pdf

Philippines: https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2015-12-CC-case-study_phil_FA.pdf

Vanuatu: https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2015-12-CC-case-study_vanuatu_FA.pdf

Timor-Leste: https://www.oxfam.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/2015-12-CC-case-study_timor_FA.pdf (environment or action and aid relating to natural and/or human made disasters)

Hunger in a World of Plenty education resource (health/people movement/ action and aid relating to natural and/or human made disasters): <https://www.oxfam.org.au/hunger-in-a-world-of-plenty/>

Get creative!

Now use your creative flair to represent your facts in a visually appealing way on your infographic.