

ESSAY WRITING - General Principles

AIM for **DETAIL** and **DEPTH** and **SCOPE**.

Answers that do well show a nimble, agile brain working cleverly with the material (texts) and the question.

To do this, you need to have engaged in thoughtful, individual reflection on, and reaction to, the material and what the **RUBRIC** (unit or module specifications/criteria) suggests is in that material, for you to discover, to explore, to extend.

Be sure you have taken account of **ALL** of the RUBRIC.

Did you unpack it, paraphrase it, till you thoroughly understood?

Did you check off **EVERY** element?

Now you develop your ideas.

Then when you come to **WRITE** about this, in an essay, you need a **THESIS** (driving idea/argument/point of view), focused on the question set, based on your sound ideas.

Toss possible ideas around as you formulate your response.

Then you can make a **PLAN**, based on a suitable **STRUCTURE** (e.g. for and against, chronological order, order of importance etc.).

Select, discard, and marshal these ideas to the structure you have decided upon.

Be discursive but stay in control.

Follow your plan, laid out in a clear **INTRODUCTION**.

LINK your ideas as you proceed through it.

Remember to write a strong **CONCLUSION**.

By Dr Meredith Goulding.

If your student's essay writing skills are weak, Meredith will be able to help your student develop the skills they need. Meredith is based on the Northern Beaches (Sydney), and you can choose whether to travel to her or have Meredith come to you (however additional travel costs will then apply).

[Meredith Goulding](mailto:meredithg7@gmail.com) (Email: meredithg7@gmail.com, Mobile: 0407 006 313).