

## Communication Week 1: Essay Writing

**Communication** is the process of exchanging information between 2 or more parties. It takes many forms which we will be exploring in the next few weeks. Week one of communication unit is a focus on **essay writing**.

An **essay** is an extended, structured, formal piece of writing that shows understanding of and opinion on a topic. It is like a written argument. Essays are written in subjects like English, History, Geography, Religious Studies and other Humanities subjects. Typically, they're not used in Sciences or Maths because these subjects tend to have objective answers, where there is usually one correct answer and an expected method. In the Humanities, there is much more interpretation, and an essay gives the chance to explore different viewpoints and show patterns of thinking.

There are **five stages** involved in writing a good essay:

1. **Understand** the question. An essay is your answer to a question, so you must make sure you understand what the essay is asking you to do. It might require you to describe, compare and contrast, persuade, offer your opinion, or very often, discuss arguments for and against a particular topic.
2. **Brainstorm**. Next, consider all the good arguments that support the topic. Whether you agree or disagree with the statement, try to put aside your own opinion to consider viewpoints and strong arguments on every side.
3. **Research**. Using the relevant novel, textbook, source material or your own research (online and in books), you need to complete research to make sure your argument is based on ideas that are supported by facts, not just your opinions.
4. **Planning**. Before you start writing, make sure you know what will go into your essay so that your ideas are well organised (see essay structure below).
5. **Writing**. Finally, you need to write the essay. The better your plan, the easier this will be.

### Essay structure

An essay is made up of three main sections:

- **Introduction:** This should present the main features of the question, define any key words in the question that are unclear and tell the reader what they should expect to find within the essay, including what the concluding argument will be. Try to include an interesting hook that will keep them reading.
- **The main body:** Depending on the essay question, this might use different formats. A balanced argument essay should present arguments for and against something, and give evidence. A compare and contrast essay will have paragraphs for similarities and paragraphs for differences. A persuasive essay will have paragraphs which continually build on a point. The most important thing is to follow the P-E-E method. State your main point which should answer the essay question, provide evidence that supports this point, explain how this evidence is being used to make your point clearly.
- **Conclusion:** This should recap and summarise the content of your essay very briefly and confirm the answer to the essay question. No new information should be given here - if you have a good point to add, it needs to be in the main body of your essay

### Our essay questions:

1. Juniors and Intermediates: Should children have bedtimes?
2. Seniors: Should university education be free?