

How To Write An Analytical Essay: Planning

Hi everyone welcome to the second article in how to write an analytical essay series so today we're going to be talking all about planning which is a really really important stage that you must must must not skip so the objectives today number one to learn the planning is important number two how to interpret an essay question that you're given and number three how to brainstorm effectively so let's get started why do we do this well failing to plan is planning to fail I'm sure you've heard this before and there's a reason you've heard it before it's very true and winging it leads to a very disorganized messy and poorly written essay so please make sure that you spend a lot of time planning your essay before you start writing it okay so step one of planning is to read the question re-read it reread it again and really make sure that you understand what it's about and really think about what it is actually asking sometimes we get really passionate about a text and we want to talk about a certain aspect and you can produce an awesome essay but you haven't actually addressed what the question is asking you so really important that you read the question number two identify key words so these are also called content words and they're words that tell you what to discuss in your essay. I want you to start by writing your question in a middle of an A4 piece of paper just write it lengthwise across the middle so that it looks like this okay so this is an example essay question from a urate curriculum and it's based on a movie called Howl's Moving Castle brilliant if you haven't seen it go watch it so the first key word I'm going to point out here is filming techniques so this tells you that you need to focus on filming techniques in your essay so make sure you have a really really good understanding of those things like camera angles lighting setting and costuming there's a whole range of different ones your English teacher those okay and the second one is characters so we know that you're going to need to have a good understanding of characters also know that it's plural so make sure you don't just talk about one character alright the next thing change this is our central idea for this essay so make sure you're really really understand what change and is about and in relation to your text so make sure you really understand that one and here just a bit of clarification we're talking about the way hearts changed this might indicate emotion or identity within characters okay so this is my example got it there again for you I've also got a note here on your page highlight these key words then create a list of synonyms for these key words because you'll find it in your essay they keep coming up again and it might get a bit repetitive for example if you put change in every sentence in every paragraph your English teacher is going to ask you to go back and write something different. It helps if you have a whole list of different words for each of those key words okay step three identified Direction words so just talked about key words these are Direction words and there was that it going to tell you what sort of arts you need to give so these are things like discuss to what extent show how how do you agree and the last two compare and contrast they are for comparative essays which I'll talk about in a different series and then go into more detail then okay step 4 brainstorm this is the fun part so look at those content words and go absolutely crazy right everything you know about the text in relation to those words pull it apart go off on tangents fill that page do not move on to the next stage until you have got a full crazy-looking page okay then once you have done that sorry before you do that I've got a few different methods that you can use for brainstorming. I myself love the good old mind map but you can do a Lotus diagram which is a little bit more structured padlet and pop litter excellent iPad apps that you can use to brainstorm ideas you can do a good old trusty dot point list if that's what you like you can have a chat to a friend and write down some notes as you're talking to them about what you think that essay is about those central ideas and you can also do a versa which is kind of like a big chatroom that you can take part in so step 5 organize those crazy ideas into some kind of order so what ideas are dominating your page make sure you go back to your [sports law topics for a paper](#) question make sure those ideas relate to the question okay and then once you've done that think about how you might organize these into paragraphs so that brings us to the end of this article on planning the next article is going to be bringing that giant massive planning pulling it in and structuring your ideas for your essay. I'll let you go off now and create your plan.