



How to Write an Academic Essay for Paper 1

Engage with the text:

Before you begin the essay ensure you understand the following:

- PATMID (purpose, audience, text type, mood, ideas/meaning/content, devices)
- Stylistic features such as language and presentational and graphical devices.
- How the text is structured and organized. Why in this way?
- How meaning is created.
- The tone and how this is created and why.
- How the features/devices reinforce the purpose

Introduction:

- Give an overview of the context of the text.
- What is it about? What is the purpose? Where is it from? Who is it aimed at? What is the form?
- Show that you understand the text and its purpose. How does it seek to achieve this?
- What do you already know about this form? Is it being used in the traditional sense?
- Engage with the guiding question.
- Be focused and precise.



Main body

- Several clear and focused points – use topic sentences that make it clear what aspect of the text you will talk about first.
- Each point or section should:
 - Have a topic sentence: this should be a declarative statement that makes reference to the task. What are you commenting on in terms of the text?
 - Include clear and relevant examples that reinforce your point AND that you can discuss in detail. You may need more than one per section. Draw stylistic features together – how do they work across the text?
 - Analyse stylistic features and the effect: implies; suggests; reveals; reflects. Why were these features used? How were they used? What is the effect? Is this the intended effect? Try and discuss how several features work together to create an effect on the audience. How are the writer's choices here shaping the meaning?
 - Develop your interpretation by referring back to PATIC.
 - Link back to your main point / topic sentence.



Conclusion

- Return back to the purpose of the text and think about how the text may be received by different readers or audiences. Would they all react in the same way? Would they interpret meaning in the same way? Would this text be more effective with certain people? Is it engaging?
- It may be useful to return to the focus in the guiding question.

Things to remember:

- Use the guiding questions to help focus your analysis.
- Topic sentences.
- Clear evidence that is introduced.
- Name the device or feature you are discussing – ensure you are using correct terminology.
- Focus on the task throughout.
- Link to PAFIC.
- Be as specific as you can when identifying the audience: class, race, gender, education, occupation, age etc
- Analyse and interpret meaning.
- Ensure your writing is clear, articulate and accurate.
- Organise your ideas in a coherent manner; ensure you are focused on the task throughout. Will you organize your points sequentially or by key ideas or features?

