Essays

1. Composition

1.1 Title

Informativeness — the argument in a nutshell

Inquisitiveness — the question that will be answered

* v. multi-part questions (Perdicoulis, 2013)

1.2 Opening

Scope — subject matter: the 'bigger picture'; what is covered and what is not

Concern — motivation and significance (e.g. 'why bother?')

Perspectives — points of view; stakeholders, interests (e.g. per stakeholder, global)

* inc. time and place

1.3 Development

Argument — what is being proposed, demonstrated, and/ or defended

Problem — formalisation, scenarios, boundaries, conditions, analysis, solutions

Register — experiences, perceptions, measurements, estimates

Understanding — dynamics, relations, interactions

Assessments — references, appreciations, judgements

* v. Problems technical folio (Perdicoulis, 2017)

* v. Arguments technical folio (Perdicoulis, 2016c)

* v. Assessment technical folio (Perdicoulis, 2014a)

1.4 Abstraction

Observations — on the subject matter

Discussion — about the subject matter and/ or its study; alternatives; counter-arguments

Reflections — beyond the essay, bigger issues

1.5 Closing

Deductions — inferences, implications, conclusions

Caution — certainty, exceptions, validity of conclusions

Extensions — other applications, extension to the future

2 Debate structures

"2-punch"

Situation — research-based information

Argument — presentation; confrontation

Discussion — observations

Reflection

"3-punch"

Argument — presentation

Counter-argument — confrontation

Discussion — defense

3 Challenges

Focus — single question

Flow — coherence between paragraphs and sections

Interest — appealing exposition

Originality — own text

* v. 1.1.1

* e.g. repetitions

Bibliography


Systems Planning™ (website) systemsplanning.org

Note

Essay is an exploratory, experimental — as opposed to authoritative/ definitive — exposition of ideas on a particular subject. To a certain extent, essays may be impartial or objective, but they often present the author's own views — at least in the 'discussion' sections. Formato, styles, and sizes vary from literary (e.g. article, letter, pamphlet, book) to the visual arts (e.g. photography, video).

* From essay [P] to try, attempt — essays are short pieces of writing on a particular subject; essays are examinations to determine content or quality

* i.e. inquire into or discuss a subject in detail; examine or evaluate opinions or possibilities

* i.e. untested ideas, not yet established or finalised

* i.e. comprehensive description and explanation of an idea

* i.e. a person, thing, or situation that is being discussed, described, or dealt with

* i.e. a particular way of considering or regarding something; an attitude or opinion

* v. Systems Planning™ journals, whose articles are essays (Systems Planning™, website)