

ENV101- Understanding and Structuring Assignment #2

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Lesson Objectives

- Develop an understanding of your assignment
- Develop an understanding of how to structure an essay
- Acquire strategies to better apply critical thinking in your writing
- Develop skills to use a mind-map to organise ideas

Outline

1. Understanding and unpacking the task
2. Preparing a mind-map
3. Essay structure
4. Critical thinking

What is Academic Writing?

- Anecdotal
- Ignores worldly phenomena
- Biased
- Personal opinion
- Conversational
- Makes unsupported claims
- Illogical
- Circular
- Inductive
- Tries to understand and explain phenomena
- Considers various arguments for a balanced argument
- Analyses
- Critiques
- Summarises
- Professionally discusses
- Makes well-supported claims
- Logical
- Linear
- deductive

Why do we write ‘academically’?

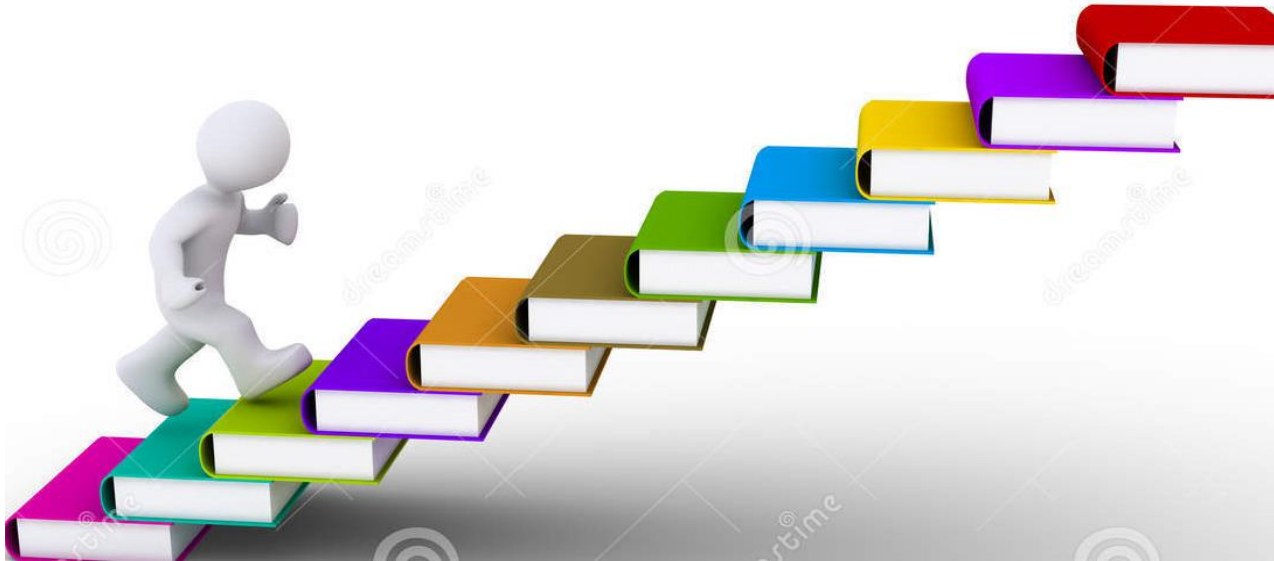
- Reputability
- Life-long learning
- Demonstrate critical thinking and analysis
- Be persuasive
- Demonstrate credibility in a discipline
- Be prepared for the working life
- Consistency
- Present findings logically for others to understand and benefit



Activity 1:

**Do other animals,
besides humans, form
'social' networks?**

Steps to Essay Writing



Steps to unpacking Task#2

1. Read the task
2. Read the task again
3. Highlight key words
4. Write/Explain task in your own words
5. Research
6. Write Notes
7. Plan
8. Write draft
9. Re-work draft
10. Edit and proofread
11. Submit

**HAVE YOU READ
THE TASK?**

What is the task?

In 2-3 sentences write a summary of the task.

Unpacking the Question – Mind mapping

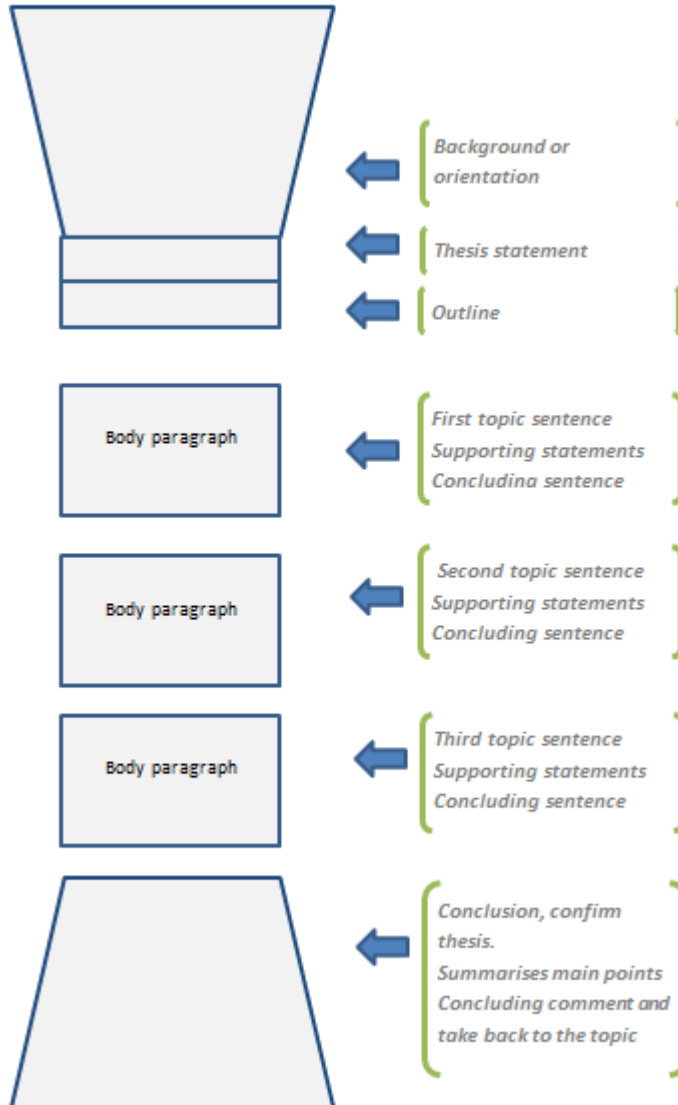
Searching for Resources

RESEARCH

Steps:

1. Environment Library Guide - <http://libguides.cdu.edu.au/environment>
2. CDU Summon - <http://www.cdu.edu.au/library/>
3. Lecture Notes and PPT

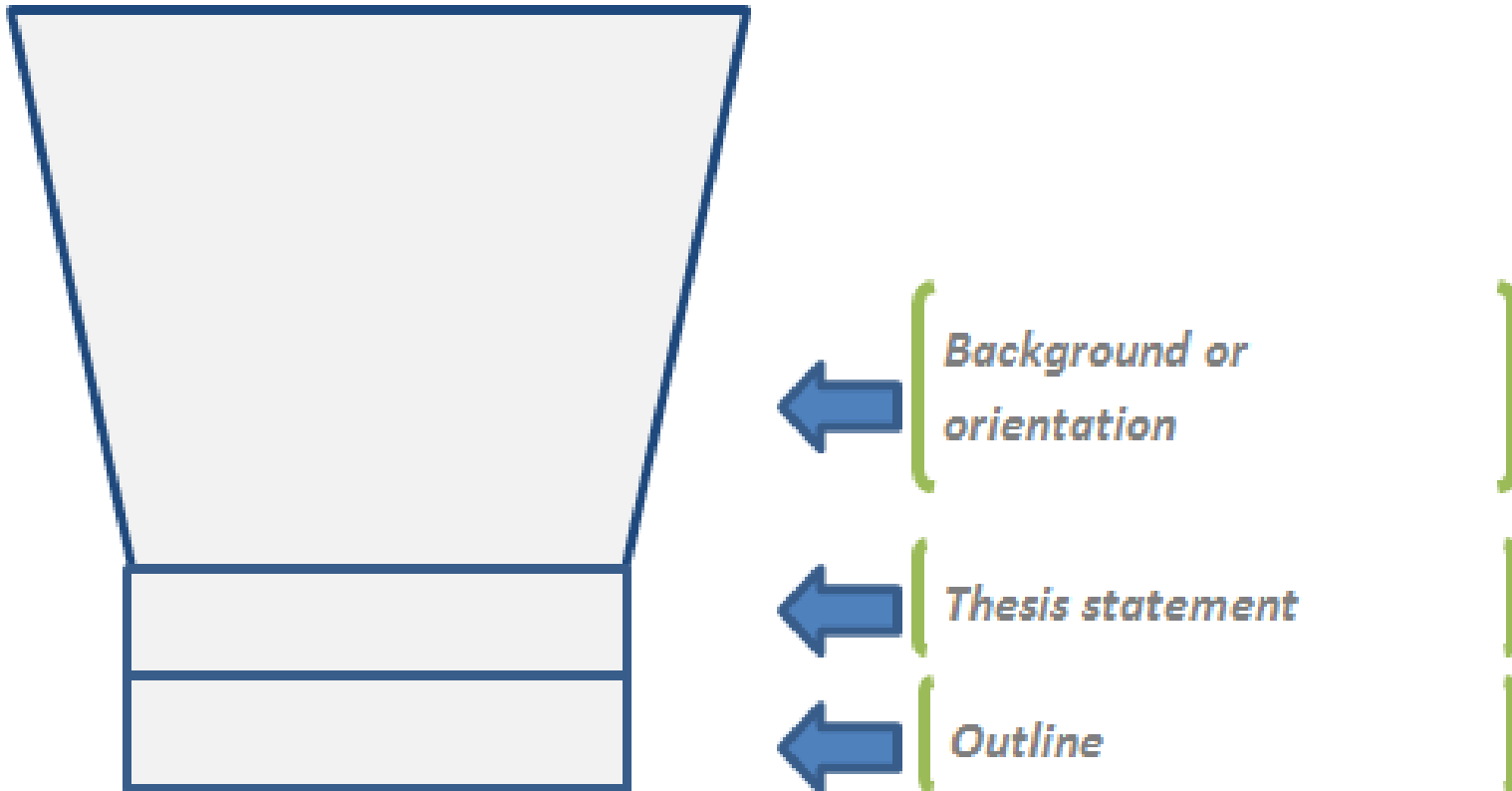
Essay Structure



Essay Introductions



Essay Introductions



Essay Introductions

- Background information
- Thesis Statement
- Outline of essay

*** The introduction is your first impression on the reader. Convince them that you will answer the question and how. Also this is where we avoid surprises!**

Background/Orientation

- General statement/statements which introduce your topic and provide some background information.
- It is giving scope to your argument which will come in your thesis statement.

Writing your background for this essay.

Tips:

- Use your mind-map as a guide as to your overarching background theme/idea
- Do not start with “this essay”
- Make it interesting and engaging to the reader
- Do not use excess words: less is more

What is a Thesis Statement?

- Most important part of the introduction and the essay
- Gives focus to the essay and to you as the writer
- Introduces your main topic or argument for your essay
- It tell the reader what the PURPOSE of the essay is
- Help give the audience and author a focus to refer back to

Writing a Thesis Statement for this essay.

Tips:

- Use your mind-map as a guide as to your argument. You will have unpacked this already
- Try to avoid using “this essay”
- Make it clear and concise: be explicit
- It should be something can be proven or disproven
- It is not a description but an assertion
- It usually contains a because or “so what” clause

What is an outline?

- Tells the reader (and yourself) how you are going to prove your argument/thesis statement
- These will be the subtopics of your essay
- The order you list them in, is the order you **MUST** discuss them in.

Writing an outline for this essay

Tips:

- Use your mind-map as a guide as to your outline. You will have unpacked this already
- Try to avoid using “this essay” or “Firstly, secondly..”
- Make it clear and concise: be explicit
- It should link to you thesis statement
- You should make sure your subtopics can be covered adequately within the word limit

Putting together your introduction.



<http://www.dreamstime.com/stock-photography-lamp-puzzle-logo-illustration-art-white-background-image30957812>

How might you put together your introduction?

Body Paragraphs

What is the first sentence of a paragraph called? **Topic Sentence**

What comes after the first sentence? **Support**

What is the last sentence of a paragraph called? **Concluding sentence (evaluative or linking)**

Body Paragraphs

What order will the paragraphs be in?

The order stated in the outline of your introduction

How many paragraphs are in an essay?

As many as you need to support your points and
prove your thesis (within the word limit)

Body Paragraphs

Body paragraph



First topic sentence
Supporting statements
Concluding sentence

Body paragraph



Second topic sentence
Supporting statements
Concluding sentence

Body paragraph



Third topic sentence
Supporting statements
Concluding sentence

Writing Body Paragraphs

- Follow the structure listed in your outline
- Logical sequence and flow between paragraphs
- Do not just describe facts but critically evaluate the literature
- Each paragraph is well structured
- Contributes to proving your thesis statement
- Is written academically

Activity 3: Critical Thinking

**Testing your ability to
argue climate change**

Have you written critically?

Have you taken up a position?

Have you used evidence used support your position?

Are you claims supported?

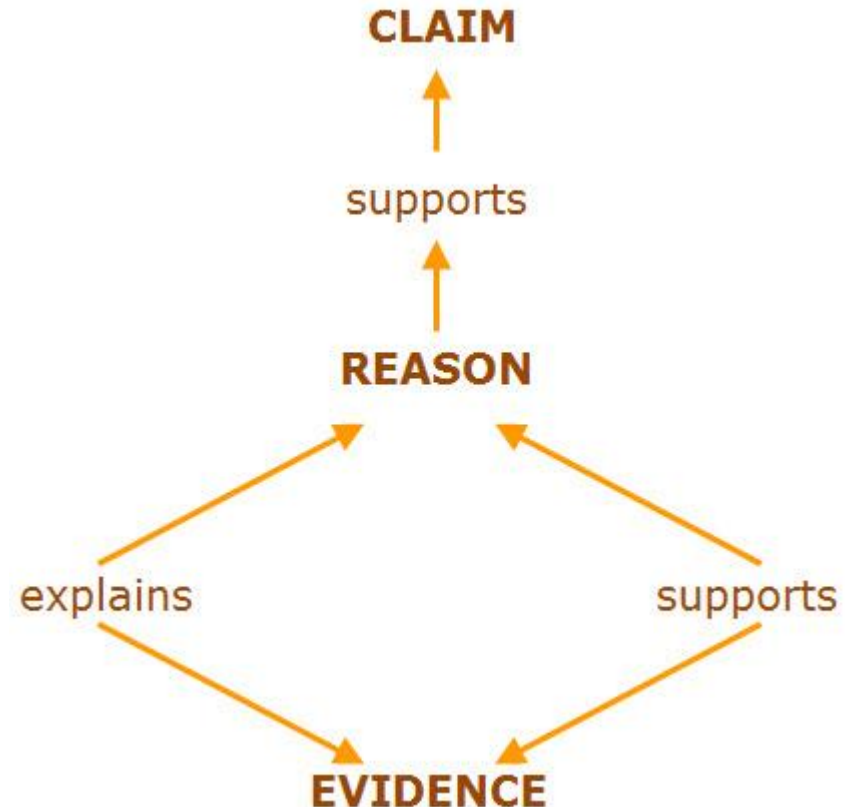
If you have agreed or disagreed is it supported with evidence?

Does your evidence link to your topic sentence?

Does it contribute to proving your thesis statement?

Validating your Evidence: more reading

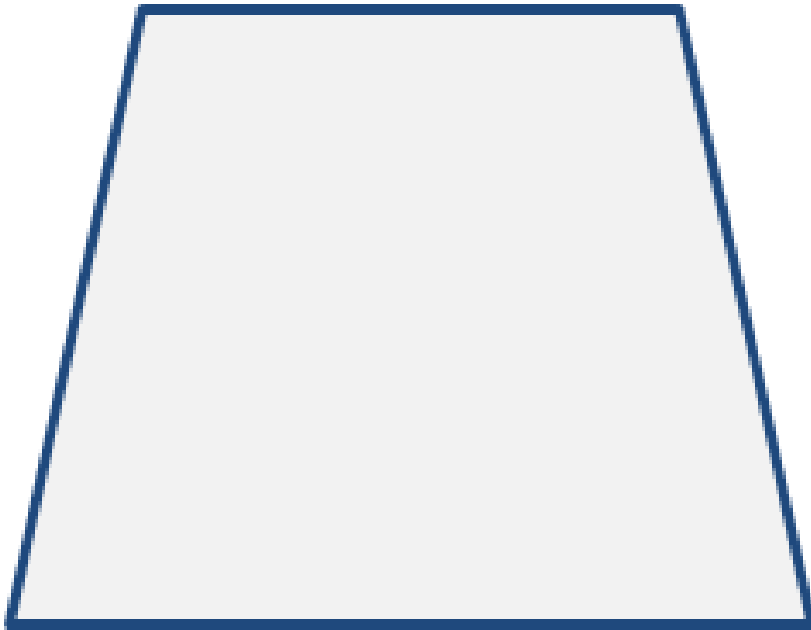
- Identify where your argument is lacking and you might need more information to clarify or strengthen it.
- Have you found enough supporting evidence?
- Widen, narrow, extend your literature search to find the material you need.
- Ensure you have evidence to support your main points.



Essay conclusions



Essay Conclusions



*Conclusion, confirm
thesis.*

*Summarises main points
Concluding comment and
take back to the topic*

Remember.....

KEEP CALM AND



Where to find ALLSP

<http://www.cdu.edu.au/academic-language-learning/allsp>



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Contact us

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Success Program (ALLSP)
Orange 4, Level 2
Casuarina campus

(08) 8946 7459
Mon-Fri: 9am-5pm

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Available to internal (face-to-face) and external students (phone - we call you at your appointment time).

Find out [what assistance you can expect/request](#) and [what we cannot do for you](#).

If you're a first time user of the online booking system, go to the [step by step instructions guide](#).

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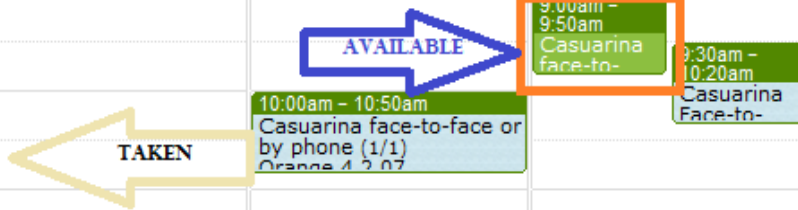
[Make an appointment](#)

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Choose a time that suits you

	Week 12	Today	Month	Day	Agenda	Available
	Tue 17/3	Wed 18/3	Thu 19/3	Fri 20/3	Sat 21/3	Sun 22/3
9 am	9:00am - 9:50am Casuarina Face-to-Face or by Phone (1/1) Orange 4 2 13			9:00am - 9:50am Casuarina face-to-		
10 am	10:00am - 10:50am Casuarina Face-to-Face or by Phone (1/1) Orange 4 2 13		10:00am - 10:50am Casuarina face-to-face or by phone (1/1) Orange 4 2 07	9:30am - 10:20am Casuarina Face-to-		
11 am						
Noon				12:00pm - 12:50pm Sydney face-to-face or by phone (0/1) Level 10, 815 George		
1 pm				1:00pm - 1:50pm Sydney face-to-face or by phone (0/1) Level 10, 815 George	12:30pm - 1:20pm Casuarina face-to-face or by phone (0/1) Bed 8 1 7 - Casuarina	12:30pm - 1:20pm Casuarina face-to-face or by phone (0/1) Bed 8 1 7 - Casuarina
2 pm	2:00pm - 2:50pm Casuarina Face-to-Face or by Phone (1/1) Orange 4 2 13		2:00pm - 2:50pm Casuarina Face-to-Face or by Phone (1/1) Orange 4 2 13	2:00pm - 2:50pm Sydney face-to-face or by phone (0/1) Level 10, 815 George	1:30pm - 2:20pm Casuarina face-to-face or by phone (0/1) Bed 8 1 7 - Casuarina	1:30pm - 2:20pm Casuarina face-to-face or by phone (0/1) Bed 8 1 7 - Casuarina



ENV101- Integrated Writing Skills

**Paraphrasing, Summarising, Referencing,
Peer-reviewing**

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Friday 4 September: 9-12am