

Lesson 31

Assignment

ESSAY

INSTRUCTIONS

- five paragraph argumentative essay based on thesis
- title page: title of essay, student name, date
- rough notes: includes thesis, outline, research, and bibliography
- style: formal, academic, written in third person
- length: 500-750 words
- quotes: cited using footnotes
- bibliography: separate sheet in MLA format
- font: Times New Roman, Calibri or Arial, 12 point
- spacing: double spaced
- numbering: pages numbered
- images: no images or pictures

SAMPLE TOPICS

Choose a topic of interest with agreement of teacher.

- changing role of women in Canadian society.
- how the two world wars affected Canadian society at home.
- the effect of world events on relations between French and English Canadians in the first half of the twentieth century.
- the effects felt in Canada by the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbour and which government actions were justifiable or not.
- extent of move towards racial tolerance or persons responsible for change in attitudes

PROCESS

- choose a topic and gather resources
- make notes and record bibliography of research sources
- thesis formation
- essay outline
- essay drafts (rewrite, edit, proofread, check for mistaken plagiarism)
- final essay which includes title page, footnotes, bibliography

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WRITING A THESIS

A good technique to thesis writing is to connect two relevant topics with a relationship phrase

SUBJECT	CONNECTION IDEA	CONSEQUENCE
EVENT: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • War • Invention • Social Movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • led to • was responsible for • affected • brought about • caused • had a positive effect • strengthened • was superior to • had a negative effect • undermined • destroyed • strained • damaged • caused turmoil • was inferior to 	POLITICAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • independence • stability • instability • autonomy • decline • military victory/loss • sovereignty
PERSON <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister • Military Leader • Leader of Social Movement 		ECONOMIC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • prosperity • decline
		SOCIAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • power • influence • domination • relations

WHAT IS A THESIS?

- a statement, not a list
- an argument, not a question
- clear and specific, not abstract
- not vague, irrational, moralistic, or judgmental

EXAMPLES

- Parti Quebecois minister Lisa Payette's denouncement of women of the 'no' side during the 1980 Quebec referendum backfired to create a negative effect on the campaign for Quebec sovereignty.
- Canada's decision to become involved in the Boer War further strained relations between anglophone and francophone Canadians, which was already stressed by conscription in WWI.

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FOOTNOTES

Both direct quotes and concepts taken from another writer should be cited by footnotes in your paper. Use a citation builder to properly cite in MLA format.

CITATION BUILDERS

- Noodle Tools
<http://www.noodletools.com/login.php>
See Noodle Tools Express link on bottom left for free single use.
- UNC University Libraries
<http://www.lib.unc.edu/house/citationbuilder/>
- Microsoft Office instructions
<http://bit.ly/MicrosoftCitations>

PLAGIARISM CHECKERS

Use a tool to be sure you have not inadvertently plagiarised content from your sources.

- Small SEO Tools
<http://smallseotools.com/plagiarism-checker/>
- Academic Plagiarism (free account)
<http://academicplagiarism.com/Scan.aspx>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Use a citation builder to properly cite in MLA format. Bibliography should be on a separate page with a title and placed at the end of the essay.

The bibliography should include at least **five or more** sources from **two or more** of the following types of resources.

- Scholarly journal or article (online)
- Primary Document
- Website
- Encyclopedia (book or electronic)
- Book
- Magazine or Newspaper

ESSAY RUBRIC

CRITERIA	LEVEL 1 (50-59) POOR	LEVEL 2 (60-69) ADEQUATE	LEVEL 3 (70-79) SATISFACTORY	LEVEL 4 (80-100) EXCEEDS EXPECTATION	Mks
ESSAY OUTLINE & RESEARCH NOTES	No evidence of notetaking. No record of information sources. Inadequate attempt at an outline prior to writing.	Some evidence of note taking though sources are not cited in notes. Evidence of a basic attempt at an essay outline with arguments	Satisfactory notetaking with source of information listed. Evidence of outline and points planned prior to writing.	Evidence of note-taking with clear notes on source of information. Exceptional outline with clear arguments planned prior to writing	/20
INTRODUCTION & THESIS	Introduction and thesis is weak and confusing. Subtopics are not clearly present	Introduction passably states topic, thesis & some subtopics. Thesis is somewhat clear, logical and arguable	Introduction skillfully states background information, an arguable topic, thesis, subtopics in clear order. Thesis is a strong and arguable statement of position	Exceptional introduction captures reader's interest, states background information with arguable topic, thesis, & subtopics in correct order. Thesis is clear, arguable, well developed.	/10
INFORMATION/ EVIDENCE	Information is limited with obvious lack of research, details, or historical accurate evidence	Information is somewhat researched using limited resources with some citations	Information is well researched with detailed and accurate information properly cited from a variety of sources	Information is well researched, detailed and historically accurate with evidence from a wide variety of sources all properly cited	/30
CONNECTION & ANALYSIS	The connection between evidence, arguments, and thesis is limited with a lack of analysis	Some connection is made between evidence, arguments, and thesis with some analysis of the topic	Consistent connection is made between evidence, arguments, and thesis with good analysis of the topic	Exceptional, relevant, and consistent connection is made between evidence, arguments, and thesis with excellent analysis of topic	/10
ORGANIZATION	Appears aimless and disorganized without logical development. Transition between ideas and paragraphs is weak	Usually organized with logical development of subtopics with adequate transition between paragraphs.	Organized with a clear and logical subtopic order which supports the thesis. Good transitions between paragraphs	Exceptionally well organized with a clear, logical, and thorough development of subtopics which support the thesis Excellent transition between paragraphs	/10
CONCLUSION	Topic, thesis and subtopics are not summarized. Conclusions are weak	Topic, thesis and subtopics are adequately summarized. Conclusions are adequate	Topic, thesis and subtopics are clearly summarized. Conclusions are precise	Topic, thesis and subtopics are excellently summarized in correct order. The conclusion is striking	/5
LANGUAGE	Poor grammar, spelling, sentence structure and paragraphing	Some errors in grammar, spelling, sentence structure and paragraphing	Few errors in rammar, spelling, sentence structure and paragraphing	No more than two errors in grammar, spelling, sentence structure and paragraphing	/5
CITATIONS (FOOTNOTES)	Footnotes are not used or are inconsistent or incomplete	Footnotes are used with some inconsistency in correct format	Footnotes are consistently & correctly formatted to validate evidence	Footnotes are always consistently & correctly formatted to validate evidence and arguments	/5
BIBLIOGRAPHY	Bibliography is missing or incomplete	Bibliography contains some errors in MLA format but most sources are shown and include a variety	Bibliography is almost all in proper MLA format, is complete, with a variety of five or more sources used	Bibliography is fully complete, in correct MLA format with a variety of five or more sources used	/5