

Essay Assignments

HINTS

Keep the points below in mind when writing an essay on any of the topics that follow.

1. Your first step is planning your essay. Determine your audience and your purpose. Prepare both a scratch outline and a more detailed outline.
2. While writing your essay, use the checklist below to make sure that your essay touches all four bases of effective writing.
3. Each essay will require support that incorporates different modes of writing. Relevant chapters are listed in each assignment. You will want to review those chapters as necessary.
4. Don't forget to give your essay a title.

FOUR BASES Checklist: Essays

BASE 1: UNITY

- ✓ Clearly stated thesis in the introductory paragraph of your essay
- ✓ All the supporting paragraphs on target in backing up your thesis

BASE 2: SUPPORT

- ✓ Three or more separate supporting points for your thesis
- ✓ *Specific* evidence for each of the supporting points
- ✓ *Plenty* of specific evidence for each supporting point

BASE 3: COHERENCE

- ✓ Clear method of organization
- ✓ Transitions and other connecting words
- ✓ Effective introduction and conclusion

BASE 4: SENTENCE SKILLS

- ✓ Clear, error-free sentences (use the checklist on the inside back cover of this book)